

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
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to cast your vote.

## INSIDE

### WORLD



Syrian troops are massing outside Homs for a possible ground assault.

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### FOCUS



Car shoppers today are less likely to end up with a lemon.

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### LIFE & STYLE



Chris Brown and Rihanna are back together, musically speaking.

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# F-16 makes emergency landing

- Two flights from Japan, Korea cancelled
- Hydraulic issues said to cause emergency landing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

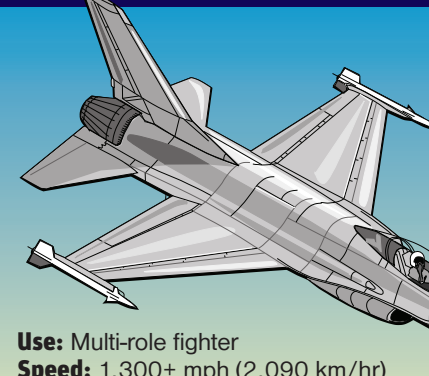
U.S. Air Force F-16 Falcon fighter made an emergency landing at the main runway of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport yesterday morning, shutting down the airport's runway until midnight and causing the cancellation of two commercial flights.

The U.S. Air Force F-16 Falcon fighter aircraft that made an emergency landing at the Saipan International Airport yesterday morning is seen at the tip of the airport's main runway. The aircraft was in a training mission and assigned to Eielson Air Force, Alaska. Both Commonwealth Ports Authority and U.S. Air Force confirmed that its pilot was unhurt.

ROSELYN MONROY



## F-16 FIGHTING FALCON



**Use:** Multi-role fighter  
**Speed:** 1,300+ mph (2,090 km/hr)  
**Range:** 2,400 mil (3,860 km)  
**Weapons:** Six-barrel 20-mm cannon, air-to-air, air-to-ground missiles and bombs  
**Background:** Considered the world's most



IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE EARTH

successful warplane in recent decades; used by many U.S. allies; can be modified for almost any combat use.  
**Average age:** 17.1 years

## NMI lost \$4M in food stamp money

► Kilili upset with unused funds, urges admin to join SNAP program

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI apparently lost \$4.5 million in food stamp funds when the U.S. Department of Agriculture de-obligated the money in July 2011 because the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs failed to use it.

The surplus food stamp funds

cover the period from fiscal years 2006 to 2010.

DCCA's failure to use the funds was revealed in two emails by DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao to USDA regional administrator Allen Ng, a copy of which was furnished to *Saipan Tribune* by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

In a Feb. 2, 2012, email,

Faisao asked Ng about USDA's non-response to DCCA's request to not de-obligate the NAP monies.

In an earlier email, dated Dec. 27, 2011, Faisao told Ng that USDA's move to de-obligate \$4.5 million in NAP funding to the CNMI contradicts existing statutes that say the Common-

See NMI on Page 4

## Families of at least two other women still awaiting justice

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Even as the trail appears to be going cold in the killing of bartender Emerita "Emie" Romero, families of at least two other women who were murdered on Saipan in the mid-'90s are still waiting for justice.

With Romero's murder in the

news not only in the CNMI but also in the Philippines, *Saipan Tribune* learned that families of the slain Virginia Dejito Coria have been inquiring with the Philippine Consulate General for any updates in the investigation into her case.

Coria, a cashier of the former K-Store in Gualo Rai, was found

See FAMILIES on Page 4

**Tinian mayor's brother Antonio passes away. PAGE 5**  
**Scoping meetings set for marine monument. PAGE 6**

## Local

# Boy Scouts gets \$700 from Rotary; seeks more volunteers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday made a donation to the CNMI Boy Scouts of America during their general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

Acting Rotary president Pete Shilling, along with Rotarians Dave Sablan and Karl Reyes, presented \$700 to CNMI Boy Scouts of America district chair Jesus C. Muna and district commissioner and Rotarian Wayne Gillespie.

"I look forward to future donations and I want to thank all of you," said Muña, drawing chuckles from the Rotarians.

The amount is expected to replenish the depleted funds of the CNMI Boy Scouts of America, which currently has about 360 young scouts from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota under its wing, according to Muña.

"Those numbers are still



CNMI Boy Scouts of America district chairman Jesus C. Muna, center, holds the \$700 donation from the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday. With him are, from left, CNMI Boy Scouts of America district commissioner and Rotarian Wayne Gillespie, Rotarians Karl Reyes and Dave Sablan, and Rotary acting president Pete Shilling.

growing and a lot of young boys want to join the program but we just can't recruit enough adult leaders who can commit to help

these young boys," he added.

Among the recent activities of the CNMI Boy Scouts of America for its young trainees

were the summer camp at the Kan Pacific grounds in June and the Boy Scouting Week celebration early this month.

Muña said that some 45 boy scouts and volunteers also enjoyed a "very adventurous" visit to two prepositioned ships on island, the USNS *Dahl* and USNS *Charleston*, for free.

"The kids were really excited to have the opportunity to board the ships and they had a great time," said Muña, adding that they plan to schedule another trip during spring break.

Muña said that since the CNMI Boy Scouts is a non-profit organization, it's difficult to get people to commit to the program.

"If we could recruit adult

leaders, it would be good for the program," he said.

Gillespie echoed Muña's sentiments, saying that they have a "desperate need" for troop and district volunteers.

Gillespie said they teach boy scouts to earn whatever they receive so they will come up with a project for the Rotary to make the boy scouts earn the donation "in some way."

Sablan, for his part, commended Muña and Gillespie for doing a good job in establishing the scouting program in the Commonwealth.

## Regents reinstate NMC chief financial admin officer post

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Barely a month after Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart eliminated the chief financial administrative officer

position, the post is back, reinstated by the Board of Regents during its last meeting.

The CFAO position was reinstated Thursday via a unanimous vote of members in consideration of the accreditation status of the college. Board chair Juan T. Lizama instructed Hart to hire a qualified candidate as soon as possible.

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges had expressed concern about NMC's lack of a chief financial and administrative officer, citing it as one of the reasons for placing the college on continued probation status. The commission said that the position is vital to the college's operation.

The dissolution of NMC's finance and budget committee was another ACCJC concern. The board revived this committee last week, together with the programs committee.

NMC has until October 2012 to address all ACCJC concerns—at last count, numbering five—or its accreditation will be revoked.

The positions for CFAO and dean of community programs were eliminated early last month as part of management's efforts to cut operational costs. A dean of administration was created to handle the tasks of the CFAO and other financial works at the college.

The last person to occupy the CFAO post was Roger Madriaga, who was hired on a limited term only. Upon the expiration of his contract, the post was terminated.

Hart earlier said that the decision to eliminate the CFAO post was in consultation with deans, managers, and governance council at the college. She also pointed out that NMC's finance and budget office has enough competent staff to handle all financial works.

The board also adopted NMC's organization chart, reflecting the reinstatement of the CFAO.

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#### SAIPAN LOCATIONS:

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# SHEFA billed \$24K for utilities; dispute in the offing

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Board members of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, SHEFA, expressed surprise yesterday upon being told that their office's utility billing amounts to \$24,679.

The outstanding obligation, based on the billing issued by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., reflects arrears from 2005 through February 2012.

Board chair Jose Mafnas, surprised by what he said is an unexpected unpaid obligation, made an initial review of the record and expressed himself dissatisfied with the billing statement, hinting that a dispute is in the offing with the utilities company.

According to administrator Henry Hofschneider, prior to SHEFA's transfer to its current office—a building unit of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.—the tenant occupying

the space had incurred outstanding obligations for both power and water. He did not disclose the figures, citing the need for more clarification.

He recommended to the board that they seek clarification first with both CUC and NMHC on the status of the former tenant prior to offering a dispute with CUC.

Hofschneider said that based on the billing statements, their utility consumption varies "tre-

mendously" every month.

Saipan Tribune learned that SHEFA has only two desktops and three air-conditioning units since it first moved to the housing unit, using the same meter used by the old occupant. SHEFA has only one administrative assistant and is not exempted from the government's austerity measure, which means there are occasions when the office is also closed for operation.

CUC, based on the billing

statement, assigned a Feb. 16 due date for SHEFA to pay the arrears.

Hofschneider refused to comment when asked if the previous mayor's office failed to pay for the obligations.

During the board's deliberation, Hofschneider disclosed that based on his inquiry with SHEFA's former consultants, the office did not receive CUC bills directly because these were automatically issued to

and paid for by the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Hofschneider hinted that, although the present SHEFA board takes responsibility for the prior board's obligations, the scholarship office cannot afford and has not enough money to pay the \$24,000 bill.

This fiscal year, SHEFA was allocated only \$100,000 for its operation including utilities and supplies and other needs. Compared to previous administrations, Hofschneider said the utility billing will now be paid for using SHEFA's operational budget.

## Man allegedly tries to stab wife with a knife

Police arrested a man who allegedly slapped and tried to stab his common-law wife with a knife shortly after a family's Valentine's Day celebration at their residence in Tanapag.

Lee Jesse Omar Reyes, 25, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and

battery, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at \$25,000 cash.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that Reyes and the victim, along with

several family members, were celebrating Valentine's Day in front of their house on Tuesday night when Reyes accused her of having an affair. Tired of the repeated accusation, the

victim told him she was leaving him for good and began to pack up.

Reyes allegedly tried to stab the victim in the stomach but she managed to block the knife with a thick pillow. The knife penetrated the pillow, but not all the way through.

Reyes also allegedly stabbed the left rear tire of the victim's car.

The victim called the police. Reyes left with his brother in another car.

Police arrested the suspect on Saturday night in Kagman III. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Jury trial in robbery case begins

The jury trial of an ex-convict who, together with another man, allegedly beat up and robbed a 65-year-old male masseur, began yesterday in the Superior Court.

Assistant attorney general Eileen E. Wisor first called to the witness stand a police officer and the victim to testify against the suspect, Nestor C. Taitano.

Saipan Tribune learned that the masseur, Guoxi Liang, a Chinese national, could not identify Taitano at the trial.

The trial will continue today, Wednesday.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer is defending Taitano.

Associate judge Joseph N. Camacho is presiding over the case.

Taitano and Joshua Basaliso were arrested in April 2011 for allegedly beating up and robbing Liang outside his house in San Antonio. Liang sustained multiple injuries in the face and head.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Taitano with robbery, conspiracy to commit robbery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Basaliso has already pleaded guilty to charges as part of a plea deal. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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# Cleaning contractor cuts services at hospital

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Due to the deep financial constraints of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the areas that are usually cleaned by a private

cleaning contractor at the Commonwealth Health Center has been reduced by half effective Feb. 14.

Healthcare corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta confirmed this with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, say-

ing that from a previous contract amount of about \$400,000 a year, a new agreement inked with the firm slashed the fee to only \$200,000 a year.

Sablan Topline Co. LLC has been the hospital's cleaning

contractor for many years.

Babauta said that because of the corporation's continued financial challenges, they decided to reduce the areas being cleaned by the company "without sacrificing healthcare delivery" at the public hospital.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that effective last week, Sablan Topline was asked to stop cleaning specific areas, reducing its coverage by some 29,800 square feet.

Among the areas that are not covered under its new contract include the admitting and discharge office, billing office, business office, the children's development assistance center, the hospital chapel, the continuing education room, the respiratory therapy training room,

CT-Scan including transcription office, dental office, diabetic resource center, HIV/STI building, hospital administration, laboratory department, managers' office, medical records, and the hospital morgue.

Last week, the company also stopped servicing the public health administration offices, radiology department, respiratory therapy, telemedicine conference room, and the medical referral office, including the hospital cafeteria.

The corporation was allocated only \$5 million to operate the hospital this year.

Babauta described the services rendered by Topline as "excellent" and that the company has also been providing extra services without extra charge.

es. According to him, Sablan Topline is a Medicare-certified vendor.

He pointed out, though, that without enough funds, they needed to cut costs.

He assured, however, that the reduction in Topline's service will not in any way impact Medicare's requirements because in-house personnel would be taking over the slack in areas that are not covered by the new contract.

"No impact at all [on Medicare requirements]...because their focus is in critical patient care areas. So as long as we meet that, we're good and we're doing that," said Babauta.

He said that Topline is just one of the many vendors the corporation has outstanding arrears. He declined to disclose how much the corporation owes the company.



## PIKA PIKA

Members of the crowd eat samples of the estofao pika cooking contest entries at the 8th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Sunday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

## Ex-convict pleads guilty to immigration doc fraud

An ex-convict facing an immigration document fraud case pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court yesterday.

Steven Romie Aguon and counsel Michael Evangelista signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Aguon pleaded guilty to count one of the indictment charging him with immigration document fraud.

U.S. District Court for the

NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set Aguon's sentencing for May 25, 2012, and remanded him into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum appeared for the U.S. government.

According to the indictment, on Dec. 2, 2009, Aguon made a false statement to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in a petition for an

alien relative. Aguon allegedly stated that he was married and that Linlin Song was his wife. Aguon allegedly knew the statement was false as he had already divorced Song on Feb. 23, 2009.

In October 2010, Superior Court then associate judge Ramona Manglona imposed a two-year prison term on Aguon for sexual abuse of a minor. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

## F-16

From Page 1

harm.

In a separate statement from the Andersen Air Force Base in Guam a few hours after, it said that the F-16 Falcon fighter made the emergency landing at the airport about 11am with one person—the pilot—onboard.

It said the aircraft was in a training mission in support of COPE North 2012 and assigned to Eielson Air Force

Base in Alaska.

The statement said that upon landing, the aircraft rolled off the end of the runway. There was no reported damage to the airfield while damage to the aircraft was unknown. The pilot, it added, also reported zero injuries.

As of press time, the Andersen Air Force Base was putting together a response team composed of aircraft maintenance personnel who will provide on-scene assessment. The U.S. Air Force said the exact cause of the emergency landing is still under

investigation.

Witnesses at the airport told *Saipan Tribune* that they suddenly heard a loud noise on the runway, "like something heavy had fallen." Later, ARFF personnel and ports police were seen rushing to the scene.

Because of the incident, the main runway was immediately shut down.

The 7/25 runway has been undergoing rehabilitation for several months now. CPA closes the runway during construction and opens it only when inter-

national flights are expected to come in. The runway was open when the incident happened yesterday morning.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that two flights were cancelled yesterday.

Delta Air Lines' Flight 298, which was supposed to arrive at 3pm, was cancelled until further notice. The flight is from Narita, Japan and carries nearly 300 passengers.

Also cancelled was Flight 603 of Asiana Airlines from South Korea. The flight was supposed

to come in at 2pm yesterday with an estimated seat capacity of about 400 passengers.

These two flights are expected to resume anytime today.

As of yesterday noon, sources said the runway is estimated to be reopened after midnight when all necessary work is completed.

Sources also disclosed that based on initial assessment, "hydraulic issues" caused the emergency landing of the jet fighter.

*Saipan Tribune* saw the ar-

rival yesterday of some U.S. Air Force personnel who will presumably conduct the initial assessment.

Meantime, another team was expected to arrive on Saipan around 8pm last night to bring the needed equipment and parts to repair the aircraft.

As of 3pm yesterday, CPA personnel, including executive director Edward DeLeon Guerrero, were still at the emergency management office of the ARFF department, monitoring the situation.

## NMI

From Page 1

wealth "could keep the funds until expended."

Faisao added in his email to Ng that the "CNMI has no final deadline for expending federal grant funds. Requests for time extensions are not necessary. There are no restrictions for one-year obligation (on the grantee's part-DCCA NAP) and two-year liquidation periods do not apply (precedence of law) and CNMI can continue to expend the USDA dollars for program purposes at the rate they choose.

With that said DCCA seeks that the \$4.5 million be obligated back to CNMI for the DCCA-NAP identified obligations..."

## Incensed

Sablan, in a phone interview last night, said he is upset that the Fitial administration is allowing food stamp money to revert back to the federal government at a time when so many residents are in dire need of assistance.

"People are being put on waitlist for the [NAP] program, benefits are being reduced, and here I am trying to get more help for families so they can put food on the tables for their children. And

the CNMI government is not using the money. \$4.5 million has been de-obligated by the USDA because the CNMI government hasn't been spending the money over several years starting from 2006 to 2010," he said.

The two-term congressman pointed out that people are having a hard time. "I know of people who come here and they have to choose between paying their CUC bills or buy food for their families. And some people are choosing to buy food for their families and there are people of the waitlist. I'm angry and people who are doing this should be ashamed of them-

selves," he said.

He said he is now trying to work with USDA to have this money returned. However, he believes that the money should go to beneficiaries right away.

Sablan also reiterated his call for the Fitial administration to agree with him and enroll the CNMI into the full SNAP program.

"It will have increased benefits, cover more people, we won't have a waiting list, it will provide food for people at this difficult time, plus it's good for business. They are telling people to go on waitlist, they have to reduce benefits because they

have no money, but they are returning this money?" he said.

Sablan added that unlike Medicare, where the CNMI has to match funds expended by the federal government, the food stamp program does not have the same requirement.

"No matches here, it's 100 percent federal so they can't use the issue of matching funds. They should be ashamed of themselves. People are on wait list, people are getting reduced benefits because they have no money and now we find out that we're returning money? They should be ashamed of themselves," he said.

Sablan promised to protect the government employee who leaked the email. "I will not identify person who gave me this email exchange, afraid that the government will run after this person."

USDA has been giving the CNMI \$12 million for the Nutrition Assistance Program since 2009; the amount was increased last year. NAP is funded through a block grant and has been implemented in the CNMI since 1982.

*Saipan Tribune* emailed Faisao as well as acting press secretary Teresa Kim yesterday to respond. Both have yet to respond to emails.

## FAMILIES

From Page 1

dead in her small bedroom on the night of Oct. 15, 1996. Her throat was reportedly slashed. The autopsy showed she had wounds in both hands, indicating she put up a struggle against the assailant.

Coria, a 42-year-old Filipino, was apparently sleeping when the suspect entered her room through the back door of the store. The back door leads to several houses, barracks, and a bushy area.

Sources said that Department of Public Safety's detectives had already identified the killer since 1996 but no one

had been charged.

Sources said that the suspect was caught and convicted in a separate case and is now detained at a prison facility in the U.S. mainland.

In 1998 the Office of the Attorney General stated that they were still waiting for the results of the examination of physical evidence forwarded

to a crime laboratory in the U.S. mainland.

A retired police official recently told *Saipan Tribune* that DPS or the OAG should act now with the evidence so that charges are finally filed as the killer is set to be released either this year or by next year.

Sources said that once the suspect is released, he will

pose a danger to the community, especially to women as he had several convictions, including the attempted rape of a Chinese woman.

The other unsolved murder occurred in August 1995 when the body of 17-year-old Elpidia Koch was found in Cow Town in Marpi.

Similar to Romero's case,

DPS refused to release more details about Koch's injuries.

Sources recently disclosed that Koch's hands were actually tied when her body was recovered.

Sources said police had the suspect but it was not clear why the investigation did not end with the filing of charges.

# Tinian mayor's brother Antonio M. Dela Cruz passes away

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Antonio M. Dela Cruz, the longest serving employee of the Tinian Municipal Council and the oldest brother of Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz, passed away around 6am yesterday from liver cancer. He was 61.

Antonio Dela Cruz is survived by his wife Jesusa Aguon Dela Cruz and his 12 children.

Family members said those who know Antonio Dela Cruz would remember him most for his sense of humor.

"You sit down with him and it won't be long before you'll be laughing with him," said Antonio's sister, Carmen Dela Cruz Farrell. "His strength just attracted people because of his jokes."

According to Farrell, Antonio Dela Cruz was diagnosed with cancer in November 2011. But the family did not know about his condition until some three weeks ago.

That was the time, Farrell said, when Antonio Dela Cruz found out that his cancer had spread to other parts of his body. He was advised to inform family members so he could spend more quality time with them.

Antonio had two children in the military, one of whom was stationed in Afghanistan. Both were able to make it to Tinian before their father's death. Of his 12 children, only one in Washington and one in Guam couldn't make it due to health reasons.

Farrell said her brother's sense of humor was evident

even during his final moments. "Last Monday, I asked him to make me a happy face and he did it even though he's in pain," she said. "The pictures that we took of him, you can tell that he's sick but he's still smiling."

Farrell said that Antonio's best joke was his story about somebody breaking into his house in Guam. "In his house, there were lots of valuables but they didn't touch it. There's money, gold jewelry but they didn't touch any of that. They only stole his picture," she recalled, smiling.

Antonio, who has worked at the Tinian Municipal Council for at least 15 years, used to bring pastries for his co-workers. "He's a good guy."

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela

Cruz described his brother as a very simple and friendly man.

"He's always had that sense of humor even during difficult situa-

tions. He's gained a lot of respect and friends in the community," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The mayor said there will be

a nightly rosary at 8pm at the San Jose Church. Interment plans will be announced in a later date.

## Sagamihara West Rotarian visits Saipan

A member of the Rotary Club of Sagamihara West in Japan is on Saipan to enjoy the island's panoramic golf courses and meet with fellow Rotarians.

Takumi Ito presented the Sagamihara West flag to acting Saipan Rotary Club president Pete Shilling during their general membership meeting yesterday at Hyatt

Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant.

Ito said that he is on island for a weeklong stay.

"I became a Rotarian three years ago and now I'm enjoying the Rotary life," said Ito, who is on his second visit to Saipan.

Ito said the Sagamihara West Rotary Club is one of 11

clubs in the city near Yokohama. The Sagamihara West Rotary Club was established about 31 years ago and has about 45 members, he added.

Besides the Saipan Rotary Club, Ito said he has visited a Rotary Club in Hawaii two years ago and in Guam in 2011. "I like to play golf here," added Ito. *(Clarissa V. David)*



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Takumi Ito of the Rotary Club of Sagamihara West presents their club flag to acting Saipan Rotary Club president Pete Shilling during a general membership meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant yesterday.

## BankGuam Holding buys some Wells Fargo loans

» **Consumer, real estate payments to Bank of Guam begin March 1**

**HAGATNA, Guam**—Customers of Wells Fargo Financial Guam and Wells Fargo Financial Saipan (Wells Saipan) will begin paying for their loans with the Bank of Guam (Guam and Saipan) effective March 1, 2012, pursuant to the Loan Purchase Agreement dated Dec. 15, 2011.

Bank of Guam, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BankGuam Holding Company, purchased

certain loans, promissory notes, retail installment contracts, and revolving charge agreements from the Guam and Saipan Wells Fargo Financial offices.

Bank of Guam sent out yesterday payment booklets and letters to consumer and real estate customers of Wells Fargo Financial Guam and Wells Fargo Financial Saipan, advising them of the change in payment methods.

"On behalf of the board of directors, management and staff of the Bank of Guam family, we are delighted to welcome customers of the Wells Fargo Financial

Guam and Saipan offices," said Bank of Guam's Lourdes A. "Lou" Leon Guerrero. "We look forward to servicing their existing loans and offering them a broad range of services to fill their financial needs."

For more information, contact either Bank of Guam Loan Support or Customer Service Department at (671) 472-5300, P.O. Box BW, Hagatna, Guam 96932. Saipan customers are asked to call the toll free number at 1-866-472-2641 (BOG1) and to remain on the line and you will be directed to a customer service representative. *(BoG)*

## DOUBLE STAMPS DOUBLE SAVINGS

For a limited time, gas up at any Shell Station and get Lucky 7 Double Stamps for each gallon of gas purchased. Double Stamps allow you to redeem your Lucky 7 Passport in half the time, which means more value for you. Don't miss out on your chance to enjoy the great benefits of the Lucky 7 Passport. Choose one every time you redeem:



\$7 IN FREE FUEL;



\$7 IN SHOP PURCHASES;



300 MILES FROM DELTA SKYMILES; OR



\$10 IT&E PREPAID WIRELESS CARD



# Public urged to attend scoping meetings for marine monument

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Friends of the Monument, a group of volunteers dedicated to the proper management of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, is urging the public to attend the scoping meetings designed to facilitate submission of public comments for the monument's draft management plan.

The public scoping meeting, to be conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is scheduled on Saipan on Friday, Feb. 24, from 6pm to 8pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Similar meetings will also be held on Tinian on Feb. 25, from 4pm to 6pm at the Tinian Elementary School, on Rota on Feb. 27, from 6pm to 8pm at the Round House in Songsong Village, and in Guam on Feb. 29, from 6pm to 8pm at the University of Guam's Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room No. 129.

The management plan aims to guide resource managers for the long-term conservation and management programs for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, which consists of roughly 96,714 square miles of submerged lands and waters of the Mariana Archipelago.

It includes three units: the Islands Unit that contains the

waters and submerged lands of Farallon de Pajaros, Maug, and Asuncion out to 50 nautical miles; the Volcanic Unit, which has 21 submerged volcanic features; and the Trench Unit, which contains the submerged lands within the Trench.

"I encourage the whole community to come in and attend

this meeting," Friends of the Monument chair Ignacio "Ike" Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune*. "It's very, very important because this is the start of the monument."

Cabrera said the meeting will help the public understand "what really is going on" about the national ma-

rine monument established by President George W. Bush through Presidential Proclamation 8335 on Jan. 6, 2009.

While the Friends of the Monument has yet to make an official comment on the draft management plan, Cabrera pointed out that it is the younger generation who should be at the meet-

ing as the marine monument was pushed because of them.

"I really encourage the people to attend, especially the students," said Cabrera.

Comments for the draft management plan can also be sent by email with the subject line "Marianas Trench MNM" to MTMNM@noaa.gov, by fax to

(808) 973-2941 or by mail addressed to Heidi Hirsh NOAA, NMFS 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., #1110 Honolulu, HI 96814.

For more information about the monument, go to <http://www.fws.gov/marianas-trenchmarinemonument> and [http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/MNM/mnm\\_index.html](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/MNM/mnm_index.html).

## Film on traditional Chamorro ovens this Friday



A *hotno* in use on Tinian in the early 1970s.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council invites the public to a screening of a film titled *Hotnun Ladriyu* (Chamorro brick oven) that will be held at Visitors Center Theater, American Memorial

Park, Friday evening, Feb. 24, starting at 6pm.

The film, produced by oral historian and videographer Rlene Santos Steffy, documents the use of the traditional Cham-

orro oven, commonly known as *hotnon sanhiyong* (outside oven) and its significance to the local culture.

These ovens, introduced during the Spanish period, were

used to bake and roast food, most commonly bread. They were fashioned from bricks and locally made cement and came in two principal forms: barrel-shaped and dome-shaped.


*Hotno* were present on Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan in the pre-World War II years. Although most of the old ones were destroyed during World War II, a number were built during the immediate post-war period with some remaining in use until the widespread availability of electric ovens in the 1980s.

Steffy's video uses archaeological research and oral history to present a detailed picture of this important but nearly forgotten part of Chamorro culture.


Included in the film are stories about Steffy's grandmother, Maria Pangelinan Flores, who owned two *hotno* on Saipan in the pre-war years: one at the family bakery in Garapan and a second at their farm in Chalan Kiya.

Following the screening, the audience will be invited to share their memories of the *hotno* so that they can be added to a growing body of oral historical information about this significant aspect of traditional culture.

For more information about this upcoming event, contact Council staff at 235-4785. (PR)



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**Office of the Secretary of Public Works**  
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**DPW12-RFP-002**

**PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE REMOVAL**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Acting Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to provide **Procurement of Services for Hazardous Waste Removal**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, under Article 7, "Local Business Preference," as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with § 70-30.3-210 of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Services will be available on or after February 22, 2012 at the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950. A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., local time, at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station on March 12, 2012. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Alex S. Chong, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 322-2762 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time March 19, 2012.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Operation Plan: <b>40%</b>
2.	Past Experience on Similar Projects - <b>40%</b>
3.	Professional Qualifications: <b>10%</b>
4.	Financial Proposal: <b>10%</b>

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW12-RFP-002."** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, March 26, 2012. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, March 26, 2012, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 26, 2012 and must be received no later April 05, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be most reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purposes of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. A fee shall be negotiated with the highest qualified firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the Government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then another firm may be selected in the order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed. Award will be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined to be most advantageous to the CNMI Government taking into consideration price and the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.


The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with § 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All response to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project.


The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/S/ VICENTE B. CASTRO  
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director of Procurement & Supply



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Director



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**CUC-RFP-12-006, REV. #1**

**PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE FOR POWER PLANT 1 & 2**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is resoliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Project Management to include Design and Construction Management services for CUC's 8-Inch Diesel Fuel Pipeline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall furnish all labor, material and logistics associated with the Project Management Services including Design and Onsite Construction Management for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) from award to completion of the 8" diesel pipeline project. Tasks shall include but not be limited to weekly, monthly inspection reports, design completion, construction and quality assurance oversight, site visits and coordination with the CUC, construction contractor and regulatory agencies (including US EPA and/or US DOT). It is preferred that the contractor have the in-house capability and qualifications to perform all the functions required (i.e. - Project management to include Design and Construction Management services) and not subcontract any part to third party vendors.

The project involves replacement of an existing 8-inch aboveground petroleum pipeline (approx. 1 mile long) with an 8-inch underground pipeline from the Saipan seaport at the Mobil Oil Bulk Plant to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2. The underground pipe installation portion of the project includes archeological monitoring, excavation/trenching, shoring, placement of bedding, welding and testing of pipe segments, pressure relief valves, high and low point drains, valve pits, pipe jacket, bridge crossing, pipe piggings, cathodic protection, based on 49 CFR part 195 and other applicable codes. Design engineers are required to obtain the relevant licenses in CNMI, as per local professional licensing rules and regulations, details of which are available on the webpage, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

This project is being performed under a stipulated order (SO) being overseen by the U.S. EPA and Federal Court. The project is funded primarily by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs.

The Revised Scope-of-Work (SOW) will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) (CHST-Chamorro Standard Time), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays. All other documentation can be downloaded from the website, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

**The response to this RFP** must be received with the title **"PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE"** and **shall only be sent** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via e-mail to [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail to [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org) no later than **Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** local time and the equivalent time of **Tuesday February 28, 2012, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. Late submissions and other means of submission will not be considered. A return receipt for the email must be requested and received by the proposer to ensure that the email transmission has been received by the deadline, by CUC.

All inquiries and clarifications must be submitted in writing no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM ChST**, and the equivalent time of Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org); and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org). CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation. All interested parties including those who have participated in the recently closed RFP are requested to also register through the website - <http://cuccnmi.net/> - or e-mailing their request to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org), no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM (CHST)** local time or the equivalent time of **Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. CUC requires all the proposers to send their questions in writing so that the responses can also be made available to all the interested vendors, well in time.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ ABE UTU MALAE  
Executive Director

# Jorgensen says he is willing to relinquish post

## »If any CNMI-situated lawyer is willing to accept case with no payment

Attorney Bruce Jorgensen said he remains willing to relinquish his position as counsel for two unnamed retirees who are suing the NMI Retirement Fund to any willing and competent CNMI-situated lawyer.

Jorgensen said he would have had no participation in this case had any other attorney been willing to represent the plain-

tiffs from the outset, with payment of zero compensation.

"But no CNMI-situated lawyer has been willing for good reason—a well-chronicled historical propensity on the part of CNMI officials and CNMI-retained lawyers to target public-interest attorneys with institutional and publicly-funded reprisal endeavors, particularly

where Jorgensen is concerned," he said.

The Fund, through counsel Braddock Huesman, is asking Jorgensen to associate himself with a local lawyer as he (Jorgensen) has too many addressees, "apparently due to his peripatetic lifestyle."

As an alternative, Huesman said the Fund should be allowed

service on Jorgensen through the district court's clerk's office, as provided for in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedures.

Huesman pointed out that the Local Rules require admitted attorneys to maintain a local office, and if not, they must associate with local counsel. Huesman said that Jorgensen is an admitted attorney but does not

have a local office and has not associated with local counsel.

In his response, Jorgensen said that in the last 12 years, the district court has allowed the waiver of local counsel rules, given the CNMI public interests that he alone has been willing to advocate.

He pointed out that more than 31 months have elapsed since the case began with no question

raised as to the local counsel scenario, so Huesman's "timing and motives appear curious, if not suspect."

"Tantamount to a diversionary smokescreen, the pending motion constitutes yet another dilatory endeavor interposed for curious and suspect, if not overtly improper motive and purpose," he said.

Jorgensen is suing Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Fund on behalf of two unnamed retirees over the alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

# 'Community-driven alliance needed in fight versus NCDs'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. wants to create a community-driven alliance that will take the lead in the fight against the spread of non-communicable diseases but the group should also not supplant previous and existing campaigns against NCDs, according to Dr. Daniel Lamar on Monday.

Lamar said that a series of meetings have already been held among different organizations and community leaders in an effort to create this alliance against NCDs in the Commonwealth. There will be a similar meeting today, Feb. 22, at the Multi-Purpose Center, at 6:30pm. The public is invited.

An NCD Plan of Action that was crafted in 2009 was disseminated to participants at a recent roundtable discussion. Titled "Just Do It," the 27-page document outlines the specific campaigns and plans of action against non-communicable diseases within the five-year period from 2009 to 2013.

Lamar said this master plan was developed by health professionals and community leaders years ago but was never enforced for many reasons, among them the recent reorganization of the former Department of



Lamar

that is not solely dependent on a government agency to make it happen, something that is community-led and community-driven," he told Saipan Tribune.

Since the action plan still has viable recommendations against NCDs, Lamar said this may still be adopted by the new alliance, with possible revisions and recreation of the whole document. "We are not tied to that [plan], but we will use it as a framework to move forward," he said.

### NCD burden

According to the NCD action plan, the Top 5 chronic diseases that cause death and disability in the Commonwealth are cancer, cardiovascular disease, stroke, renal disease, and diabetes—with the rates of diabetes and obesity among highest in the world.

The action plan indicates that cardiovascular disease (heart disease and stroke) accounted for 21 percent of all deaths in 2010; the leading causes of death (cancer and

Public Health and the lack of enough funds.

"Our goal now is to create something

heart disease) accounted for 24 percent of all deaths in 2010; while deaths from heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes accounted for 42 percent of all deaths in 2008.

Cancer was identified as the leading cause of death in 2008-2010, accounting for 12.5 percent of all deaths. It was also disclosed that half of all deaths in 2010 were caused

by chronic disease or a result of risk factors.

"There is a great need to address the primary risk factors of NCDs in the CNMI and these mainly include unhealthy eat-

ing, physical inactivity, tobacco, and substance abuse. Through health promotion action by relevant stakeholders, the community and individuals are to be strengthened in their capacity to take ownership and increase control over these risk behaviors," the action plan states.

## Way sought to allow rehiring of retired teachers for up to 6 years

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) has pre-filed a legislative initiative that would allow retired classroom teachers to be re-employed for up to six years, instead of only up to two years, as allowed under the current law.

Senate Legislative Initiative 17-17, which will be formally introduced on Thursday, seeks to amend Article III Section (b) of the CNMI Constitution.

Taimanao, in her initiative, said that, while the Constitution only allows re-employment of classroom teachers not exceeding two years, the Public School System continues to have a shortage of teachers, especially in the field of special education.

She said the PSS Special Education Program accommodates all special education students from

public and private schools.

"Although funds may be available to hire new teachers, hardly anyone applies for special education teacher positions. But there are retired special education teachers in the CNMI that are willing to teach again if not for the double dipping restriction of the Constitution that limits double dipping for classroom teachers to two years," Taimanao said in her bill.

She said that, by allowing retired teachers to teach again for up to six years, they would fill vacant positions and give PSS more time to hire and/or train special education teachers.

A legislative initiative requires the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of each house present and voting. It will then be presented to voters for ratification at the next general or special election.

*We offer our deepest sympathy*

to the family of

**Ssg. George Joseph "Keoki" Affatica Sablan (Pitu)**

October 23, 1970 • February 10, 2012

*and to all the fallen heroes of the CNMI*

*There is no greater love than the one who is willing to lay down their life on behalf of their friends. Your sacrifice will forever remind us of how precious our own lives are and how fortunate we are to live free—a wonderful gift that allow others that same opportunity.*

*We are forever grateful to you and your family and will never forget what you have done for us.*

**Tan Holdings**

# Fitial forges friendship ties with Vietnam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial visited the Vietnam House yesterday for a meeting with Vietnam Ambassador to the United States Nguyen Quoc Cuong. The Vietnam House is the official residence of Ambassador Cuong in the nation's capitol.

The governor and the ambassador engaged in a meaningful discussion on mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities between the two governments. Fitial expressed the need to expand the CNMI's economic development strategy in order to achieve economic growth and spur job creation for residents.

Fitial pitched the CNMI as a choice destination for Vietnamese tourists, real estate development, agricultural, and educational investments. Educational tourism is the Vietnam government top interest as families invest a large amount of personal finances to ensure that their children receive a high standard of education from U.S. institutions.

Cuong stated that in order to establish a thriving education industry on the islands, it is highly important to seek a visa waiver or another form of special visa that would make trav-



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Vietnam Ambassador to the United States Nguyen Quoc Cuong have their picture taken during Fitial's visit to the Vietnam House yesterday in Washington, D.C.

eling to the CNMI accessible to Vietnamese. He is committed to fostering a CNMI-Vietnam partnership aimed at establishing a bilateral economic development plan to help revive the CNMI's ailing economy. With an estimated population of nearly 100 million, Vietnam is considered the world's second largest exporters of rice and coffee, just two of many other commodities being exported from the country on a daily basis.

Fitial expressed his appreciation to Cuong and took pleasure in informing him that the Commonwealth is now pre-

paring to receive a delegation of provincial leaders from Vietnam in either March or April. Organizers from the Ngeh An province are currently working on preparations for the country first official visit to the Northern Marianas.

The ambassador also handed Fitial a letter from Vietnam's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pham Binh Minh, who is formally inviting the governor to visit Vietnam on an official trade mission to further discuss mutually beneficial economic opportunities. (Office of the Governor)

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Happy birthday greetings go out to Brenisha Lizama Mansfield, who turns 4 years old today, Feb. 22! May you have many more blessed years to come! Greetings come from Grandma, Uncle Bo, Mom, Dad, your wonderful siblings, and the family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Happy 3rd birthday to Louis Benedict H. Rectitud! May God bless you and keep you always in His tender, loving care. We love you! Greetings come from Papa, Mommy, and Ate Queen Anne.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 22, 1999

### Bill provides compensation, repatriation costs for workers

An administration-sponsored legislation will seek compensation of up to \$3,000 in unpaid wages and repatriation cost for foreign workers with pending monetary awards against their bankrupt employers following an agreement between the CNMI and U.S. legislators. The House of the Representatives and the Senate held a back-to-back emergency session on Friday to vote on the measure in a move they said was recommended by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) and members of the House Resources Committee who visited the CNMI last week. "We were reminded that there is still a situation and we wanted to show our cooperation with this delegation," said House Speaker Diego T. Benavente, author of the bill.

### HEW resumes hearing today

The House committee on Health, Education and Welfare resumes its oversight hearing at 10 a.m. today at the House chamber, focusing chiefly on personnel policy of the Northern Marianas College, according to officials. The panel is wrapping up its investigation of the financially troubled state college as requested by NMC officials, particularly board regents, who have complained of the time they have spent in attending the hearing that began on January 28. So far, the committee, chaired by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, has provided evidence that may seem to bolster allegations of mismanagement of CNMI's lone higher learning institution -- charged repeatedly denied by college officials.

Feb. 22, 2000

### Senate asked to hold off CUC oversight

The chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications yesterday asked his fellow lawmakers to hold off their planned oversight into the controversies surrounding the Saipan power project pending completion of an investigation being conducted by the Office of the Public Auditor. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez believes that the Legislature should focus on more important issues and give OPA the responsibility of looking into the project. The Attorney General's Office has made its own investigation earlier but has yet to submit a written report on its findings.

### SBA to sign pact on SBDC transfer to CDA next month

An agreement which will clear the road for the final transfer of the federally-funded Small Business Development Center from the Northern Marianas College to the Commonwealth Development Authority is expected to be signed next month. Board Chair John S. Tenorio said the Small Business Administration and CDA are already finalizing discussions on some provisions contained in the transfer agreement which will be signed by middle of March. Mr. Tenorio said SBDC equipment, which are currently housed inside the facility within the NMC campus, will be transported to the CDA office in Gualo Rai by end of this month.

Feb. 22, 2001

### US balks at fund request from Northern Islands

Despite utilization of Northern Islands for military operations, the local government disclosed that the United States military denied the requested assistance made by local officials for the holding of a geological hazard assessment of former military depot. Northern Islands Mayor Joseph T. Ogunmoro said the defense department junked the recent plea made by the local administration for assistance in utilizing Navy personnel for construction and renovation of port facilities. In addition to this, the department also trashed out request for technical assistance grant from the US Department of the Interior to conduct hazard evaluation prior to resettlement and implementation of economic activities.

### Fund asked: Pinpoint persons downed by tobacco

It would be difficult for the Group Health and Life Insurance Branch to identify program subscribers who suffered complications and ailments as a result of cigarette smoking. The admission was made yesterday by Retirement Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres in response to Senate Committee on Health and Welfare's recommendations made during the public hearing on the establishment of a Master Settlement Agreement Trust Fund. While recognizing the fact that the apportioned 30 percent from the tobacco settlement will help the GHLI pay off over \$4 million obligations to health providers, Torres said it will entail a lot of time for the insurance program to evaluate each claims.

<b>PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT</b>	
<b>INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB12-DPS-042 (A)(B)</b>	
<b>SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 15, 2012      TIME: 1:00 P.M.</b>	
<b>"TO UPGRADE, CONDUCT TRAINING, PROVIDE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT FOR THE CNMI PREHOSPITAL DATA COLLECTION AND PATIENT CARE REPORTING SYSTEM FOR THE ISLANDS OF SAIPAN, ROTA AND TINIAN"</b>	
<small>COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS AND SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.</small>	
<small>QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE CHIEF TOMAS M. MANGLONA AT (670) 664-9137 AND MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MARCH 05, 2012.</small>	
<small>THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.</small>	
<small>THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.</small>	
<small>/S/ RAMON C. MAENAS COMMISSIONER, DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY</small>	<small>/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&amp;S</small>

<b>IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS</b>	
<b>JANTHEWEE PHAIRUANGSOM, Petitioner,</b>	<b>FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0535</b>
vs.	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
<b>STEPHEN ISMAEL, Respondent.</b>	
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:	
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to the Petitioner whose address is JANTHEWEE PHAIRUANGSOM (Responsible Party of) PMB 175 P.O. BOX 10005, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.	
Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.	
DATED, this 3rd day of February, 2012.	
/s/Clerk of Court	

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122 THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC POST OFFICE BOX 5222 SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950 TEL: (670) 234-6547 FAX: (670) 234-9537	
ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff	
<b>IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS</b>	
<b>NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,</b>	<b>CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0034</b>
-v-	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
<b>FRANCES ALDAN VALDEZ and ELISEO ASUNCION VALDEZ, Defendants.</b>	
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:	
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.	
Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.	
If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.	
DATED, this 27th day of January, 2012 by order of the Court.	
/s/ Clerk of Court	

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122 THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC POST OFFICE BOX 5222 SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950 TEL: (670) 234-6547 FAX: (670) 234-9537	
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff	
<b>IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS</b>	
<b>NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,</b>	<b>CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0005</b>
-v-	
<b>ALFONSINA M. ARJU and ARJU ARJU, Defendants.</b>	
<b>SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION</b>	
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:	
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.	
Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.	
If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.	
Dated February 10, 2012 by order of the Court.	
/s/ Clerk of Court	

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758 Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-7859 Fax: (670) 234-5749	
Attorney for Bank of Guam	
<b>IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS</b>	
<b>BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,</b>	<b>Small Claims No. 09-0429</b>
vs.	AMENDED SUMMONS
<b>SASAKI B. OLIVER, Defendant.</b>	
<b>TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT SASAKI B. OLIVER</b>	
<b>YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR</b> by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1ST Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon <b>Robert Tenorio Torres</b> , attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at <b>Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950</b> ; and in case of failure to do so, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.	
So ORDERED this 12th day of August, 2010.	
/s/Clerk of Court	

# 8th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the Tinian High School JROTC unit perform a drill.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Residents and tourists watch the Dragon Boat race last Sunday.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Primo, the mascot for the CNMI's coral reefs, is seen mingling with the children at the festival grounds on Saturday.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

A young boy holds a piglet after catching it at the livestock octagon at the festival grounds.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Team JC Cafe members finish the race in 5:59.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

A young dancer performs the hula for the festival crowd.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Team DCCA prepares for the start of the race.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Commodore Dave Johansen of the Marianas Sailing Club teaches young students the basics of sailing on Feb. 18.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 44

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**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
**Mark Rabago** ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Saudi Arabia's sports gap

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times on Monday, Feb. 20:

In Saudi Arabia, girls and women are shut out of competitive sports, according to a just-released report by Human Rights Watch. There are no national teams for women, and physical education for girls does not exist in state schools (although it does in private schools). Fitness clubs open to women are few and costly. Many of the swimming pools and running tracks that did exist for women were closed by the government in 2009 for being unlicensed, leaving women to search out gyms operating under the radar or to exercise at home.

Saudi Arabia is one of only three countries that share the abysmal distinction of never having sent a female athlete to the Olympics. However, the other two countries, Brunei and Qatar, have sent women to other international events, and Qatar officials say they hope to send women to the Olympics this year. A female Saudi equestrian earned a bronze medal in the 2010 Singapore Youth Olympic Games, although she did not receive Saudi sponsorship.

The lack of robust—or any—sports programs for women should not come as a surprise given that Saudi Arabia notoriously and systematically represses women, forbidding them to drive, appear in public without their faces veiled and work, travel or study without the permission of a male guardian. Although Saudi laws derive from Islamic laws, there is nothing in the Koran that bans women from participating in sports. Some Saudi clerics have warned that sports could lead to women wearing immodest clothing and spending too much time away from their homes. Yet other predominantly Muslim countries, including Iran, Indonesia, Algeria and Bahrain, have sent female athletes to the Olympics.

The Saudi policy has come under fire, not just on equal rights grounds but for health reasons as well. Obesity and diabetes rates have risen among Saudi women and girls, studies show. Even the government appears to grasp that; a deputy minister for girls' education said recently that physical education for girls "is under serious consideration" as a priority for reasons of health.

The International Olympic Committee, whose charter denounces any discrimination, has previously urged Saudi Arabia to end discrimination against women in sports. But Human Rights Watch recommends that the committee bar the country from participation in the 2012 London Games unless the government lays out a specific plan and timetable for opening athletic facilities and supporting teams for women. This is not unprecedented. The committee banned Afghanistan under the Taliban from the 2000 Olympics because of discrimination.

There is no excuse for the Saudi government not to take this healthy and basic step to include and support women in athletics. And with the Olympics looming, there is no more appropriate time.

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## Ash Wednesday

From the moveable feast of Fat Tuesday's Mardi Gras, we move to the solemnity of the moveable fast! This move is like the career path of some of us who took seriously the Vatican II's reforming, if not revolutionary, call. At seminaries and theological schools, fans and fanatics cultivated being a prophet as major, pastor as minor, priest as elective, and ignored the monastic role as archaic and escapist, though a prerequisite of the profession. Lent as the 40-day liturgical exercise in detachment was observed more in endurance rather than as a profound religious observation.

For us, it would take total immersion in the non-religious secular world that would lead us to a fuller appreciation of the gifts of the season's dramaturgical wisdom.

We lift four features in our memory; others would point to other emphases. There is the 40-cycle pattern, the basic substance of dust and ashes, the role of being marked, and finally, the discipline of the fast.

The 40-day/year-cycle in ancient times was a universal time pattern of wholeness and completion brought about by the solar "month" of forty days that in a nine revolution of the sun would bring it back to the "same" location.

The Jews narrate their exodus from Egypt to Canaan as taking a generation of 40 years; Moses took 40 days to bring YHWH's commandments to the Chosen People. The followers of Jesus, a later prophetic voice, used the 40-day imagery as the time it took for the carpenter of Nazareth to appropriate his chosen role to assault the Jewish illusions of a saving Messiah from the House of David and the Roman delusions of the invincibility of its Empire. The march against the Temple and the Legation of Jerusalem cost him dearly.

The astrologically determined time cycles of our familiarity like the seven-day week from the lunar calendar and the 24-hour rotation of the Earth on its axis are patterns we take for granted. These are inventions meant to give rationality to humankind's journey and existence. The season of Lent is an invitation to look into the patterns and nature of our human journey.

That internal meditation of the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Jewish Passover and Christian Lent, as well as the Islamic imams in their Ramadan used the imagery of "dust and ashes," from whence everyone came from to where all are headed, as the overarching theme of the 40-day observances. It is in this commonality of fate and destiny that the call to turn away from original "sin" is made.

Original sin is not meant as a negative measure at the starting gate of life. It refers to the desert dwellers' propensity to live their situations more along common mirages than existing in the reality of the way-life-is (YHWH). Illusory existence is the ultimate escape from famine to fame, from loneliness to romance, from ordinariness to elevated status. The season of Lent admonishes the faithful to turn their essence away from such illusions, and return (repent) to the

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara ([jrvergara2031@aol.com](mailto:jrvergara2031@aol.com)) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



basic requirements of existence, of dust and ashes!

I have a big birthmark on my tummy. As a wayward kid, my Mama always alerted the police of a "marked" missing boy should I be found.

Being marked evolved later into the act of choosing one's vocation. My friends followed the professional steps of Papa or the career path of Mama, but I went through Lent with the challenge to discover what I was "marked" for, what my chosen-ness was, and create my vocational path accordingly. Forty days of reflection invites the faithful to chart the course of their existence, not in the determinism of one's parentage but on the freedom of one's choice.

Being marked leads to the monastic practices of fasting, the discarding of illusions and delusions. These often come to us as a big surprise.

Forty years ago, Richard Nixon came to China, shattering my set of images. Old Dick was a political enemy and we rationalized his decision to bridge the 25-year long distance that separated the children of Mao from the beneficiaries of FDR's acumen with the cynical comment that he was playing to the home crowd opposing the Vietnam War to be re-elected for a second term. He was, though it now appears from WH records that the move on the PRC was conceived early on in the Nixon presidency.

The bashing of McGovern as the Peace candidate was almost total (only 1 State and the District of Columbia went blue) but the young campaign coordinator in Dallas from Arkansas evolved with the determination and discipline of a monk to find himself and his Hillary in the William Jefferson Clinton White House of the '90s.

OK, some will complain that the monastic vows do not exactly fit tricky Dick and cigar chomping Bill to a tee. The traditional vows are of poverty, chastity, and obedience (sodality). Removing the moralistic screen later imposed on these vows, poverty is abject "detachment" from the allure of wealth, chastity is "single-mindedness" to pursue one's vocation, and obedience is "total engagement" in the missional task at hand.

In our old age, we discovered our monastic calling. Welcome to Ash Wednesday.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Leave pristine Pagan alone!

So much has been said about pozzolan and the presumed wealth we could reap from it. Even the ignorant have spouted that it would bring in millions of dollars. But I suppose it's okay to boast in the sea of ignorance on an island where marshland reed scientist rule coffee joints. No wonder the persistent disorientation rather than focused discussions on most issues here.

The Department of Public Lands commissioned a study to determine the approximate quantity of pozzolan on Pagan. It is estimated that there's about three million metric tons of it. A circular sent to countries that use pozzolan to harden cement products didn't go anywhere. Our pipe dream that China would jump on the opportunity fizzled out. China has sufficient power generation with fly ash she collects and uses for cement hardening. So out the window goes our presumed wealth from pozzolan.

I took an aerial tour of the island if only to see how far the mineral was blown and deposited when the volcano erupted. It runs from the crater down toward the shore and cliff lines to the west and north on a third of the island. A lot has disappeared into the water. Inclement weather adds to the slow but steady erosion. About the only solid thing left behind is basalt, a material well suited for road paving. The volume is sufficient to pave the roads of the entire Micronesian islands. But how do you extract and move it out of the island given the lack of basic infrastructure?

The day I was leaving, I asked the pilot to do a slow ascent, snapping scenic shots of the beautiful landscape below that runs up the crater. One thing stood out in my mind: If basalt and pozzolan were extracted, what would be the extent of the destruction to Pagan? Would reclamation funds be sufficient to restore her natural beauty or would extraction leave behind the indelible destruction of greed permanently compromising the natural setting and majestic beauty of the pearly isle?

As the island disappeared behind me, issues of her delicate nature and the prospects of resettlement kept creeping in mind. Her beauty and location are exactly the prominent and unique features

that make the island a piece of volcanic rock to romanticize about, warranting careful or meticulous planning. It's best fit for small cottages around the upper and lower lakes, safari, picture taking, and a swim in her hot springs endowed with health healing properties.

That it is geographically parallel with the Aloha State across the Pacific conjures an island with unique ambiance and beauty we can't find anywhere else. I get a mental view of Eden and the natural flora and fauna supporting this lush and pristine verdant strand. There's also the livelihood of our ancestors who laid the foundation of culture and tradition, a simple and beautiful way of life among the old Chamorros. Wow! Call it Eden Isle, paradise unto herself.

Resettling the island presents troubling issues: For instance, opening up Regusa Hill for homesteading would be problematic. The land begins on the windward side of the island that gradually rolls up the hill. It's wide open for destruction from storms. A 30-mile an hour wind would wipe out any non-cement structure. You move south and you find two craters that rumble every now and then. Whichever site is used for homesteading, there's the costly basic infrastructure issue that local government must resolve by way of planning, financial support that must include an emergency ship anchored outside 24/7. Thus, resettlement seems a long shot and if may I may declare so unilaterally, "Leave her alone!"

Life on an isolated island was simple. That evening as I called it a day, I could envision folks working together to supplement supplies from the business center by planting staple food and making do with the abundance of wild livestock and fish. The closely-knit community does almost everything together. From dawn to dusk, the men are out piling coconuts for copra. Women attend to the family garden. They never had to contend with the demands of a modern community. Life goes on in all its simplest form for happy campers.

The uninhabited islands up north are remote and quite a distance from the business center. Beautiful and pristine their natural settings

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

*Special to the Saipan Tribune*

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



may be, none is equipped with port or commuter airport facilities to aid travel or transfer of heavy equipment and cargo. Islands such as Sariguan, Anatahan, Alamagan, Pagan and Agrighan all need some sturdy port, much like Rota Island to the south. They share a common denominator: None of the islands has a reef to ease huge waves moving in from the deep blue.

The difference is in the population base of all five islands. Rota has about 5,000 people. The islands up north hardly any. So where do we focus spending scarce resources? Rota's needs has greater urgency given the number of folks who live there today.

■ ■ ■

Understandably, those who once lived up north wish to return for one reason or another. I quiz what it is that they have in mind: The simple life of farming and fishing? Turning any land receipt into cash after acquisition? Is it really the idea of resettling a remote island so far removed from the hustle and bustle of small island city like Garapan? Of course, there are more questions than answers.

Resettlement would mean much more than a simple fantasy of reliving the past. You have to have basic infrastructure, i.e., ports, power generation, water supply, sewer system, schools, health clinics, roads, police and fire substations; teachers; doctors and nurses; and a standby ship anchored off the island in the event of another lethal eruption. It takes lots of dough to turn this into reality. How I wish it could be done for the sake of those who once lived there. How wonderful a feeling that would be saying, "I'm finally going home." But the money to fulfill it isn't anywhere in sight.

## In Iraq, occupation by another name

Two recent reports appearing on the same day last week in The New York Times and The Washington Post illustrate U.S. intentions in Iraq. What they reveal is that despite the heralded "end" of U.S. participation in the war there, U.S. policy continues to depend on our security apparatus to influence Iraq, at the expense of Iraqis' sovereignty and dignity.

The Times report informed us that the U.S. State Department decided to cut the U.S. embassy staff by 50 percent from its current 16,000 personnel. This is a good decision; the U.S. embassy in Baghdad is the largest in the world. The reason given for the decision is primarily to reduce the American footprint in Iraq with the hope of reducing Iraqi hostility toward these evident remnants of occupation.

The second report, in the Post, informs us that the U.S. is significantly ramping up the number of CIA personnel and covert Special Operations forces in order to make up for reducing the American military and diplomatic footprint. These added covert personnel will be distributed in safe houses in urban centers all across the country. This represents a new way to exert U.S. power, but it is betting on the Iraqis not noticing the increased covert personnel. Really? This is a bad decision as it contradicts the reasons for the decision to reduce embassy staff.

The Iraqis have suffered for nine years as a result of the U.S.

invasion and occupation. The economic, educational and political systems in Iraq have been destroyed. Sectarianism, contrary to the belief of many in the U.S., has become the order of the day since the invasion. A significant percentage of Iraqis do not like us and do not want us to stay in Iraq. No Iraqi politicians want to openly be identified as pro-American.

Animosity toward the U.S. is on the rise because of the heavy U.S. presence in Iraq. Our projects in Iraq function to serve our interests, such as building and training security forces to keep the Iraqis in check (building the infrastructure for the promotion of democracy has taken a back seat). We have made sure that Iraq, for the foreseeable future, will depend on us for security equipment and spare parts, heavy industrial machinery, and banking. We built Iraq's security forces but made sure it has no air force. And the half-hearted democracy we built is a shambles; graft and corruption are still rampant.

Iraqis can tell the difference between mutually beneficial programs and those that create the impression that the U.S. is powerful and can do what it wants in Iraq.

Four years ago, on this page, I speculated that the massive U.S. embassy being built in Baghdad would be pillaged by angry Iraqis blaming the U.S. for destroying their country. In a follow-up article,

By **ADIL E. SHAMOO**

*The Baltimore Sun*

*Adil E. Shamoo, a professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, is an associate fellow of the Institute for Policy. A native of Iraq, he is the author of the forthcoming book, Equal Worth—When Humanity Will Have Peace. He wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.*



I suggested that as a goodwill gesture, the embassy be converted into a university staffed primarily by volunteers from the Iraqi expatriates community in the U.S. The conversion of the embassy into a university surely would not cost a large portion of the embassy's current \$6 billion budget. Such an institution, filling much of the compound's soon-to-be-vacated space, would serve the U.S. interest much better than boots on the ground (or in safe houses) and turn a new page in our relationship with the Iraqi people.

U.S. policy in Iraq is in need of a wholesale change—not a ramping up of covert operations and certainly not in urban centers. All of the ingredients of Arab awakening are alive and well in Iraq. U.S. policy needs to realize this and build on it, not implement policies that denigrate Iraqi aspirations, hopes and autonomy.

## Letters to the Editor

### Pretty good

President Obama has proposed that the Northern Mariana Islands get \$6.7 million for EPA water and sewer projects next year. That's six times more than the \$1 million we were getting when I first went to Congress. The reason for this huge jump in funding is that insular area Members of Congress have worked together to change the percentage of the EPA money that goes to our areas from 0.33 percent for water and 0.28 percent for sewer to 1.5 percent for each in the President's budget. So, even though nationally the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Funds are proposed to go down by 32 percent in fiscal year 2013, the Northern Mariana Islands cut reported is only 17 percent—the smallest cut for any of the insular areas. (NMI loses \$1.022M in FY'13 EPA budget, Marianas Variety, Feb. 20, 2012.) Another important fact: the \$6.7 million in the President's budget is \$124 of federal taxpayers money for each and every one of us here in the Northern

Mariana Islands. That is 18 times higher than the national average of \$7 per capita for EPA water and sewer grants.

The reality is that our nation has to get spending under control, so we will see cuts in programs. But let us not forget how well the Northern Mariana Islands is doing. Because of the changes to the funding formula, beginning in Public Law 111-88, and with some help from the Recovery Act the Commonwealth will have received \$30.1 million over the four years since we gained representation in Congress. That is pretty good compared to the \$1 million annually we were getting before and it is one of the reasons that we are closer to 24-hour water for the people of Saipan.

**Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan**

*CNMI Delegate to Washington, D.C.*

## Free vacations

Six fearless leaders of the CNMI get free vacations! Wow, while all you good people waste so much time and energy looking for the next big thing to save the Saipan sinking ship, such as looking for another free federal handout to build baseball parks for Koreans to swing their bats and eat kimchi in, the Bud Boys up on Sly Hill are taking vacations and getting fattened up on juicy Peking duck. With all due respect to all the relentless positive affirming messages from Tony Pelligrino written in this paper each week (and keep it up Tony, no matter what because someone has to), I'm almost convinced the CNMI is beyond help, especially after reading that six barbecue Bud Boys from Sly Hill are all-expense-paid partying in Taiwan. Just keep on voting for your relatives, then let 'em sell drugs to kids, or go to prison for stealing federal money, or bleed you out with a casino deal that ol' lip smacking former fearless governor Flo Tenorio is chomping at the bit for. Rome is burning while the boys are getting' fattened up in Taiwan before the slaughter.






**Chris West**

*Santa Monica, Calif.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79

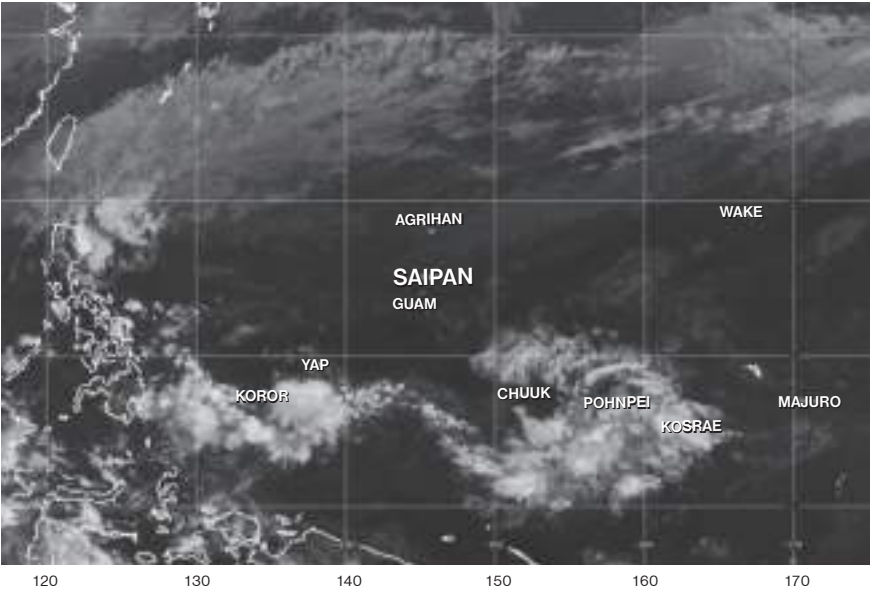
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 72 ▼ 70
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 49 ▼ 24
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 67
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 80 ▼ 70
London	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 51
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 49
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 90 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 58
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 61
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 40
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 46
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 51 ▼ 40
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 48
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 42
Salem	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 48
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 50
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 53 ▼ 35
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 44
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 53 ▼ 39

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:02 AM	Today	High Tide:	0.1 Feet	
8:28 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.9 Feet	
2:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	0.7 Feet	
7:51 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.9 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N180 to 20N160E then continues as a shear line across the far Northern Marianas near Anatahan to 15N140E. The shear line finally curves northwestward to beyond 130E at 17N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and north of the cold front to beyond 25N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 300 miles north of the shear line. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Koror but south of Yap between 3N and 8N from 130E to 140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring well south of Guam within 75 miles of a line from 6N141E to 8N145E to 3N149E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kosrae and Pohnpei in an area bounded by a line from 4N151E to 8N160E to 5N166E to EQ159E to 1N151E back to 4N151E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:27 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	7:06 AM	7:26 PM
Friday	7:44 AM	8:15 PM
Saturday	8:22 AM	9:03 PM
Sunday	9:00 AM	9:51 PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)</b> C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

# Business

## Source: Greece to get \$170B bailout, reduce debt

**BRUSSELS (AP)**—After more than 12 hours of talks, the countries that use the euro reached an agreement early Tuesday to hand Greece euro130 billion (\$170 billion) in extra bailout loans to save it from a potentially disastrous default next month, an European Union diplomat said.

The euro surged as the news broke, climbing 0.7 percent to \$1.328 within minutes. While much depended on the details of the deal, a final agreement on the bailout for Greece will take some pressure off the 17-country currency union, which has been battling a serious debt crisis for two years.

The deal—details of which were still being worked out by European finance ministers in an all-night session in Brussels—was expected to bring Greece's debt down to 120.5 percent of gross domestic product by 2020, according to the official. That's around the maximum that the International Monetary Fund and the eurozone considered sustainable.

The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity because a formal announcement was pending.

The country needs the euro130 billion (\$170 billion) bailout so it can move ahead with a related euro100 billion (\$130 billion) debt relief deal



Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos, second right, speaks with from left, Belgium's Finance Minister Steven Vanackere, French Finance Minister Francois Baroin and Greek Prime Minister Lucas Papademos during a round table meeting of eurozone finance ministers at the EU Council building in Brussels on Monday, Feb. 20, 2012.

with private investors. That deal needs to be in place quickly if Athens is to avoid a disorderly default on a bond repayment on March 20.

Last week, a new report from Greece's debt inspectors indicated that the country's debt would still be close to 129 percent of GDP by the end of the decade, despite massive new spending cuts planned by Athens and a tentative euro100 billion debt relief deal with private investors.

That level would have pre-

vented the IMF and some euro countries from putting up more rescue money—on top of a euro110 billion bailout Greece received in 2010.

Moving in and out of talks with bondholder representatives and consultations with the IMF and the European Central Bank, the ministers pushed private investors to accept steeper losses, going beyond a 50 percent cut in the face value of their bonds.

It was unclear what the final deal with bondholder representatives looked like, but the

lower debt level suggested that they agreed to further losses. Greek state television claimed early Tuesday that the private investors will see a 53 per cent cut on the face value of their bonds, bringing overall losses to around 75 per cent on the value of the bonds.

The big question will now be how many banks and other investment funds will actually agree to participated voluntarily and whether Greece will have to force some holdouts to sign up to make the deal effective.

## Oil jumps to nine-month high after Iran cuts supply

By **PABLO GORONDI**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oil prices jumped to a nine-month high above \$105 a barrel on Monday after Iran said it halted crude exports to Britain and France in an escalation of a dispute over the Middle Eastern country's nuclear program.

By Monday afternoon, benchmark March crude was up \$2.02 to \$105.26 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the highest since May. The contract rose 93 cents to settle at \$103.24 per barrel in New York on Friday.

Iran's announcement will likely have minimal impact on supplies, analysts said, because only about 3 percent of France's oil consumption is from Iranian sources. Britain had not imported oil from the Islamic republic in six months.

"The price rise is more a reflection of concerns about the further escalation in tensions between Iran and the West," said commodity analyst Caroline Bain of the Economist Intelligence Unit.

"Banning the tiny quantities of exports to the U.K. and France involves very little risk for Iran—indeed quite the opposite, it catches the headlines and leads to a higher global oil price, which is something Iran is very keen to encourage."

Markets in the United States are closed Monday for the Presidents Day holiday.

Iran's oil ministry said Sunday it stopped crude shipments to British and French companies in an apparent pre-emptive blow against the European Union after the bloc imposed sanctions on Iran's crucial fuel exports. They include a freeze of the country's central bank assets and an oil embargo set to begin in July.

Iran's Oil Minister Rostam Qassemi had warned earlier this month that Tehran could cut off oil exports to "hostile" European nations. The 27-nation EU accounts for about 18 percent of Iran's oil exports.

Tehran also is considering extending the embargo to other European countries, a semiofficial Iranian news agency reported Monday.

## United rebrands premium cabins, upgrades food, entertainment, amenities

**CHICAGO**—United Airlines, a wholly owned subsidiary of United Continental Holdings, Inc., recently announced the company is upgrading its premium-cabin services to offer customers new food and beverage options, additional choices in in-flight entertainment, and—on long-haul international flights—new amenity kits, pillows and blankets.

United is also rebranding its international, long-haul premium-cabin services, introducing:

- United Global First, the international first-class experience on three-cabin aircraft.

- United BusinessFirst, the international business-class experience on two-cabin and three-cabin aircraft.

### United Global First, United BusinessFirst

Beginning March 3 on long-haul international flights and many flights within Asia and the

Pacific, first-class customers

on three-cabin aircraft will experience United Global First, with a higher level of privacy and comfort, a flat-bed seat, priority airport services and more personal attention.

On most of United's three-cabin aircraft, United Global First suites offer flat-bed seats, laptop power, USB ports, individual audio and video on demand with noise-reduction headsets, additional storage compartments and a multi-course meal with complimentary wines.

Beginning in the second quarter, United will upgrade the long-haul first-class experience with new amenities, including:

- More-comfortable bedding amenities.
- Additional in-flight food choices.

- New amenity kits featuring Philosophy-brand skincare products.

United also will extend Continental's award-winning Busi-

nessFirst product to United, offering an elevated business-class service with new amenities that include:

- An additional entrée option, for a total of four, designed by United's Congress of Chefs. United is also changing the way it prepares business-class meals to improve the quality and taste.

- Expanded wine selections chosen by Doug Frost, Sommelier and Master of Wine.

- New ice cream sundae dessert option with a choice of six toppings.

- Improved in-flight entertainment including noise-reduction headsets.

- New amenity kits featuring Philosophy-brand skincare products.

- Duvet-style blankets and higher-quality pillows and hot towels.

"The rebranded cabins offer premium-cabin customers the highest levels of service,

every time they fly," said Mark Bergsrud, United's senior vice president of marketing. "We are keeping the products that our customers tell us they value the most as we continue to build the world's leading airline."

### United First, United Business

For customers flying United in North America, between North America and northern South America, and on some flights within Asia and the Pacific islands, the airline will continue to offer United First and United Business premium-cabin services.

On most flights, United has revamped its premium-cabin meal and snack choices to offer customers their favorites among options previously available only on United flights or Continental flights, including:

- Warmed, all-natural scones and cookies, made from scratch exclusively for United.

- Warmed cinnamon rolls on breakfast flights.

- Pasta salads as a light snack.

- Premium snacks including all-natural pop chips, Emerald nuts, Clif organic energy bars, Toblerone Swiss milk chocolate and fresh fruit.

- Warmed nuts offered in a small china bowl on all lunch and dinner services.

- Ice cream sundaes offered with a choice of six toppings, available on many transcontinental lunch and dinner services.

On United Express flights longer than two hours, customers seated in the premium cabin may enjoy complimentary snackboxes. The rebranding and expanded menu options come as United continues with plans to invest more than \$550 million to upgrade aircraft interiors. The airline has installed

Economy Plus seating on dozens of Continental aircraft. When fully deployed, United will offer customers more extra-legroom economy-class seats than any other airline in the world. United continues to upgrade its widebody fleet with new premium cabins, with more than 130 aircraft outfitted with flat-bed seats. Once completed in early 2013, United will offer more premium-cabin flat-bed seats than any other airline.

Beginning later in 2012, customers will see additional improvements, including larger overhead bins on Airbus A319 and A320 aircraft—increasing the available carry-on storage space by approximately two-thirds—and satellite-enabled inflight internet service. United is also introducing on-demand entertainment on its popular transcontinental p.s. service, along with an expanded premium-cabin service with flat-bed seats. **(United)**



### LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,949.90	1,361.23	2,951.78
45.79	3.19	-8.07
0.35%	0.23%	-0.27%

### EXCHANGE RATES

n U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9316	Indian Rupee	49.0950	Singapore Dollar	1.2523
	British Pound	0.6306	Indonesian Rupiah	9,022.00	South Korean Won	1,123.20
	Canadian Dollar	0.9936	Japanese Yen	79.7390	Swiss Franc	0.9097
	Chinese Yuan	6.3037	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0200	Taiwan Dollar	29.5720
	Euro	0.7533	New Zealand Dollar	1.1915	Thailand Baht	30.7300

## Nation

## Obama takes tougher stance on higher education

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Access to college has been the driving force in federal higher education policy for decades. But the Obama administration is pushing a fundamental agenda shift that aggressively brings a new question into the debate: What are people getting for their money?

Students with loans are graduating on average with more than \$25,000 in debt. The federal government pours \$140 billion annually into federal grants and loans. Unemployment remains high, yet there are projected shortages in many industries with some high-tech companies already complaining about a lack of highly trained workers.

Meanwhile, literacy among college students has declined in the last decade, according to a commission convened during the George W. Bush administration that said American higher education has become “increasingly risk-averse, at times self-satisfied, and unduly expensive.” About 40 percent of college students at four-year schools aren’t graduating, and in two-year programs, only about 40 percent of students graduate or transfer, according to the policy and analysis group College Measures.

College drop-outs are expensive, and not just for the individual. About a fifth of full-time students who enroll at a community



In this Feb. 13, 2012 file photo, President Barack Obama speaks at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Va.

college do not return for a second year, costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually, according to an analysis released last fall by the American Institutes for Research.

There’s been a growing debate over whether post-secondary schools should be more transparent about the cost of an education and the success of graduates. President Barack Obama has weighed in with a strong “yes.”

During his State of the Union

address, Obama put the higher education on notice: “If you can’t stop tuition from going up, the funding you get from taxpayers will go down,” he said. “Higher education can’t be a luxury— it’s an economic imperative that every family in America should be able to afford.”

He wants to slightly reduce federal aid for schools that don’t control tuition costs and shift it to those that do. He also has proposed an \$8 billion program

to train community college students for high-growth industries that would provide financial incentives to programs that ensured their trainees find work. Both proposals need congressional approval.

At the same time, the administration is developing both a “scorecard” for use in comparing school statistics such as graduation rates as well as a “shopping sheet” students would receive from schools they

applied to with estimates of how much debt they might graduate with and estimated future payments on student loans.

American’s higher education system has long been the backbone of much of the nation’s success, and there’s no doubt that a college degree is valuable. It’s now projected that students with a bachelor’s degree will earn a million more dollars over their lifetime than students with only a high school diploma, Education Secretary Arne Duncan says.

But Obama’s statement to Congress jolted the higher education establishment, which believes that college isn’t just to create foot soldiers for industry and that the use of measured outcomes would hurt the humanities, meaning fewer students will turn to Shakespeare and instead study engineering, said Anthony Carnevale, director of the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University. The community has already been reeling over an earlier administration decision to require career college programs— many of which are at for-profit institutions—to better prepare students for “gainful employment” or risk losing federal aid.

“It’s the notion that the ...federal government will begin to say we want to know what we’re paying for and we want to make sure that people don’t pay for education programs that take

them nowhere, especially if the program is supposed to get them a job, we want it to get them a job, Carnevale said.

Some fear that Obama might want to apply the “gainful employment” standards to traditional four-year degree programs. Robert Moran, director of federal relations at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, said reporting requires time and resources, and it’s even more difficult to gauge the success of a graduate with an English degree than someone with a very specific career certificate.

Duncan said in an interview he doesn’t see a big need to go in that direction now, although he does think it’s important to track factors such as graduation rates and tuition costs. He said he tracked his graduates while serving as chief executive officer of the Chicago Public Schools and noticed that some universities were graduating them at rates of 75 percent or more, while others were graduating them at a small fraction of that.

“Colleges aren’t too dissimilar to high schools. Some have done a great job building cultures around completion and obtainment and some haven’t,” Duncan said.

Historically, policy conversations have centered on getting students into college. Duncan said graduating is just as important.

## Gingrich says his policies could lower gas prices

**TULSA, Okla. (AP)**—Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich dangled the prospect Monday of gas as low as \$2 a gallon if he’s elected.

The former House speaker has spoken in the past of gas dropping to \$2.50 a gallon under a Gingrich administration. The prediction, coming as Gingrich campaigned in Oklahoma, contrasts sharply with rival Rick Santorum, who told an Ohio audience that big-city Americans should brace themselves for \$5-a-gallon gas. Both candidates are citing

new sensitivity over rising pump prices to push for relaxed regulation on domestic oil production. Gingrich isn’t the first candidate to claim he can bring relief; former GOP candidate Michele Bachmann made \$2 gas a standard part of her pitch.

What the candidates don’t say is that U.S. presidents have limited, if any, power to affect prices of a global commodity like oil because such costs depend largely on supply and demand. As the economy improves, demand could rise, putting extra pressure on prices.

Gingrich and Santorum have been highlighting oil exploration in North Dakota and slamming the Obama administration for delaying a Canada-to-Texas oil pipeline. Those projects are considered long-term steps and might not have much effect on short-term prices.

But Gingrich’s comments resonate in a place like Oklahoma, where the oil and natural gas sector is vital to a bustling state economy.

“With Gingrich policies, what we know is we will dramatically

expand our independence in the world market, dramatically expand our capacity to produce energy without regard to our foreign potential enemies and in the process prices will clearly be a lot lower,” Gingrich said. “Now, I picked \$2.50 as a stabilizing price for capital investment reasons. It could easily go down to \$2.”

According to AAA’s daily fuel gauge, a gallon of regular gas was approaching \$4 in some places and even topped it in California. The national average was \$3.56 per gallon.

## Hepatitis C deaths up, baby boomers most at risk

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Deaths from liver-destroying hepatitis C are on the rise, and new data shows baby boomers especially should take heed—they are most at risk.

Federal health officials are considering whether anyone born between 1945 and 1965 should get a one-time blood test to check if their livers harbor this ticking time bomb. The reason: Two-thirds of people with hepatitis C are in this age group, most unaware that a virus that takes a few decades to do its

Graphic shows the expected outcomes per one hundred people infected with Hepatitis C.

damage has festered since their younger days.

The issue has taken new urgency since two drugs hit the market last summer that promise to cure many more people than ever was possible. And research published Monday says testing millions of the middle-aged to find those who need the pricey treatment would be worth the cost, saving thousands of lives.

“One of every 33 baby boomers are living with hepatitis C infection,” says Dr. John Ward, hepatitis chief at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “Most people will be surprised, because it’s a silent epidemic.”

Don’t think you need to wor-

ry? Yes, sharing a needle while injecting illegal drugs is the biggest risk factor for becoming infected with this blood-borne virus. But before 1992, when widespread testing of the blood supply began, hepatitis C commonly was spread through blood transfusions. Plus, a one-time experiment with drugs way back in high school or college could have been enough.

“Asking someone about a risk that happened 20 to 30 years ago is a lot to ask,” says Ward. Hence the quest for a new strategy.

About 3.2 million Americans are estimated to have chronic hepatitis C, but at least half of them may not know it.

## ACROSS THE NATION

## Part of Neb. city’s illegal immigrant law rejected

**OMAHA, Neb. (AP)**—A federal judge on Monday rejected a portion of a Nebraska city’s ordinance that would have denied housing permits to illegal immigrants but upheld a requirement that employers verify the citizenship status of people they hire. U.S. District Judge Laurie Smith Camp found some of the housing provisions in Fremont’s ordinance, approved by voters in 2010, are discriminatory in violation of federal law. Both sides in the contentious immigration debate claimed victory after the ruling, which stemmed from a combined lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

## Infant killed after shots fired into Detroit home

**DETROIT (AP)**—Attackers peppered a house on Detroit’s west side with gunshots early Monday, killing a 9-month-old boy, police said. Delric Miller was in the living room and other children and adults were at home when the shoot-

ing happened around 4:30 a.m., Sgt. Eren Stephens told reporters. The boy was pronounced dead at a hospital. Police Chief Ralph Godbee said during an afternoon press conference that the shooting was gang-related. An AK-47 rifle was used in the attack. No arrests have been made.

## Siblings killed in upstate NY fire are identified

**ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP)**—Four young victims of a house fire that engulfed an upstate New York home early Saturday have been identified as siblings, ranging in age from 6 to 14 years old. The Rochester Democrat & Chronicle reports that fire officials identified the victims Monday as 14-year-old Gage Reavey, 13-year-old Greg Kugler, 12-year-old Kandee Kugler and 6-year-old Kaiden Kugler. Their 30-year-old mother, Bobbie Kugler, and her 2-year-old son, Tyron Jackson, were rescued from the first floor of the home. Firefighters were on the scene quickly but say the blaze spread through the two-story wood-framed building with such speed they were unable to get to people trapped on the upper floor.

## Silent epidemic

With new treatments for hepatitis C now on the U.S. market, the government is working to get more people tested.

For every 100 infected...

75 to 85 will develop chronic infection

60 to 70 will develop chronic liver disease

5 to 20 will develop cirrhosis

1 to 5 will die of cirrhosis or liver cancer

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

AP

# Asia

## Christchurch still 'safe haven' for quake survivor

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)**—Jane Taylor was managing a women's clothing store in downtown Christchurch a year ago when the earthquake struck. She was dug from the rubble within minutes with horrific injuries—her vertebrae were crushed, her skull was fractured and her pelvis smashed.

Like Taylor, many survivors of the Feb. 22 earthquake continue to feel the emotional and physical pain from the tragedy that left 185 people dead in New Zealand's worst natural disaster in 80 years. Yet they are also rediscovering what it means to be part of a family and a community, and life is settling into familiar rhythms.

Taylor was in the hospital for three months, at first in an induced coma. But the 54-year-old says that in the months since, she has found strength from those around her, and has never considered leaving Christchurch.

"It's our place of love," she told The Associated Press. Of the fellow survivors she's gotten to know, "each of us is inspired every day by each other."

In many ways, the city remains a mess, a testament of the fury unleashed by the magnitude-6.1 temblor. The business district is a giant construction site. Thousands of homeowners have been told to leave their land after the government

deemed entire neighborhoods too unstable to repopulate. And significant aftershocks jolt people's confidence.

Yet, when Statistics New Zealand measured the population of Christchurch four months after the earthquake, it found it had declined by just 2.4 percent, down to 368,000.

Recalling that day, Taylor explained how she was in the store in the Cashel Street Mall when she felt a violent shaking and began running.

"The verandah upstairs basically landed on me," she said. "Big blocks of concrete. I was bent over like a staple, my bum on the ground and my head on my feet."

Two men dug her out from the rubble and moved her to a bench, but there was chaos all around and no way for an emergency vehicle to reach her.

"It was pretty shocking," she said. "There was debris falling, dust filling my mouth and nostrils, people screaming."

Taylor sat there for an hour, held upright at first by a friend and then by her husband, before a police car could get close and take her away.

After three months in the hospital and another three in physical therapy, she was able to walk unaided thanks to a titanium cage that doctors inserted to support her spine. These days, she has



In this Feb. 17, 2012 image made from video, Jane Taylor speaks about events following a deadly earthquake that struck Christchurch, New Zealand on Feb. 22, 2011.

weakness in her pelvis and chronic pain but said she's proud of her recovery and full mobility.

Despite the continuing aftershocks, she said she considers Christchurch her "safe haven" thanks to her family and friends. She said she believes she developed the emotional strength to handle her injuries after her 18-year-old son Alex was killed by a drunk driver four years ago.

"Your priorities change after something like that, and you realize that it's your family and being together that's so important," Taylor said, adding that

she and her husband, Shaun, "developed a closeness and a strength as a couple after that."

For others, there remains the lingering question: Why did I survive when so many others died?

Emily Cooper, 23, was a reporter on assignment at a local park when the quake struck. The Canterbury Television (CTV) building where she worked collapsed in the quake, accounting for a majority of the deaths from the quake—115. Among them were two people she considered close friends—Rhys Brookbanks, 25, whom Cooper had known

since journalism school, and Sam Gibb, 27, her producer at CTV.

"The guilt wasn't something that lasted just a few days after the quake. It lasted months and has never really gone away," Cooper said. "It's changed from guilt to confusion. I will never really understand why. I can't help but think, why me?"

Cooper has since left CTV and now works for a radio station. However, she said she feels compelled to stay in Christchurch and keep reporting the stories of the people there who are struggling to rebuild their lives.

One pair whose image resonated with people around the world that day are Kent and Elizabeth Manning, teenagers whose photo was captured at the moment an officer told them there was no hope of finding more survivors in the collapsed CTV building, where their mother, Donna Manning, was killed.

The teen's uncle, Maurice Gardiner, said that a year later, they are healing.

"Both Elizabeth and Kent have good days and bad days, as we all do, but they are getting on with their lives," he said. "Kent is back at high school and Lizzy is at work."

Gardiner said he was "very, very proud" of how the teens had coped with all the issues they faced after their mother's death, from figuring out where they would live (Manning was a single mother) to arranging memorials.

On the anniversary of the quake Wednesday, Gardiner said, the teens plan to bury their mother's ashes at a local cemetery. That, he said, may help bring some closure.

"One of the things that has come out of all this is that people spend a lot more time with each other," Gardiner said. "Not only with our family, but throughout the city. As we put things back together, we are very much looking after each other, caring for each other."

## Philippine militant blamed for beheadings captured

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Philippine police commandos captured an alleged Abu Sayyaf militant Tuesday who has been implicated in several atrocities, including the beheadings of marines, a major jailbreak and deadly attacks.

Police served more than a dozen arrest warrants to Ismael, who uses the nom de guerre Patah Hamjak and was found in Isabela city on southern Basilan island, birthplace of the Abu Sayyaf extremist group, said Paquito Ochoa Jr., who heads the Philippine Anti-

terrorism Council.

Ochoa said Ismael is accused of involvement in the 2007 beheadings of 10 marines in Basilan's Al-Barka township and a 2009 attack that allowed 31 mostly Muslim insurgents to escape from the provincial jail.

Those who escaped included Dan Laksaw Asnawi, a key commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebel group, who has also been implicated in the 2007 beheadings.

Police have also accused Ismael of buying the police commando fatigues that were worn

by Abu Sayyaf militants who fired on civilians and detonated bombs in a bold attack that killed 14 people in Isabela city two years ago.

The Abu Sayyaf is the smaller but more brutal of at least four Muslim groups that have been fighting for decades for a separate homeland in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's south.

It is estimated to have less than 400 fighters but is still considered a major security menace despite many battle losses and the loss of several leaders.

Tuesday that he was assured by Thein Sein in a recent Myanmar visit that the sweeping reforms there were "now irreversible."

### N. Korean envoy arrives for US nuclear talks

**BEIJING (AP)**—Pyongyang's top nuclear envoy arrived in Beijing on Tuesday ahead of the first nuclear talks with the United States since the death of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il. First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, who did not speak at the Beijing airport, is due to meet U.S. envoy Glyn Davies in Beijing on Thursday. It will be the third round of such talks since July but the first since Kim's death in December. The talks are aimed at restarting

six-nation aid-for-disarmament negotiations on North Korea's nuclear program.

### Blast at steel plant in NE China kills at least 10

**BEIJING (AP)**—At least 10 people have been killed and three others are missing after a blast at a steel plant in northeastern China. The state-run Xinhua News Agency says that the blast late Monday night in Anshan city in Liaoning province also injured 17 people. It said Tuesday that the cause of the accident at the steel-casting plant is not known yet. Rapid economic growth and lax safety measures mean that industrial accidents are relatively common in China.

## Gunmen in Afghan police uniforms kill NATO soldier

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Gunmen in Afghan police uniforms opened fire on NATO troops on Monday in southern Afghanistan, killing an Albanian soldier, officials said.

A second Albanian and another international soldier were wounded, they said. Eleven suspected policemen were arrested.

The shooting appears to be the latest in a growing number of turncoat attacks that have raised questions about the vetting of Afghan recruits and threatened the international military commitment to Afghanistan.

Last month, France suspended its training program and threatened to withdraw its forces a year ahead of schedule after an Afghan soldier shot and killed four French soldiers on a base in eastern Afghanistan.

Monday's shooting occurred in the village of Robat, in Kandahar province's Spin Boldak district which borders Pakistan, said Kandahar police chief Abdul Raziq. The troops had gone there for a meeting about opening two schools and a health center, the Albanian defense ministry said.

The soldiers "found themselves attacked by a group of persons wearing uniforms of the Afghan police," Brig. Gen. Viktor Berdo, the head of Albanian land forces, told reporters

in the country's capital Tirana.

The attackers opened fire with five assault rifles and one light machine gun, the Albanian Defense Ministry said. One Albanian, a captain, died later in a hospital in the provincial capital of Kandahar city. Albanian officials initially said a corporal also was killed, but later clarified that the soldier was in a coma, adding "there is still hope of improvement."

Another international soldier was wounded, the ministry said, without providing a nationality.

The Albanian ministry said the remaining soldiers "arrested 11 Afghan policemen who opened fire."

Albanian President Bamir Topi denounced the attack as a "grave terrorist act" and called for the punishment of those responsible.

It was the first time any of Albania's soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan. The country has 265 troops in the country.

There have been more than 45 of these insider attacks in Afghanistan since 2007, more than 75 percent of those in the last two years, according to Pentagon data.

Monday's attack on NATO forces came after a suicide car bomber struck a police station in the provincial capital of

Kandahar city.

The attacker drove a Toyota Corolla up to the checkpoint outside of the Kandahar police station and detonated his explosives, Raziq said. One police officer was killed and four people were wounded in the explosion—two police officers and two civilians, he added.

A civilian compound nearby was also destroyed, according to a statement from the Kandahar government's media office.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but it fit the pattern of Taliban assaults, which usually focus on government installations or security forces.

Also Monday, three Italian soldiers were killed in a vehicle accident in the west of the country.

Italian President Giorgio Napolitano issued a condolence message expressing his "deep emotion" over the news of the deaths in Herat province.

The Italian soldiers were in a convoy going to survey a canal project in Herat's Shindand district when their vehicle crashed into a canal, said provincial police spokesman Rauf Ahmadi. The Italian news agency ANSA said that the soldiers' armored vehicle overturned while crossing a stream.

### ASIA BRIEFS

#### Once-critical Philippines praises Myanmar reforms

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario says his country believes a recent assurance by Myanmar leader Thein Sein that democratic reforms in the former military-ruled nation are now irreversible. The Philippines was once Myanmar's most vocal critic in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which groups the two countries along with eight others. Myanmar's dismal human records has led it to be regarded as the group's "black sheep." Del Rosario told The Associated Press on

## World

# Syrian forces mass outside rebel stronghold

**BEIRUT (AP)**—Syrian tanks and troops massed Monday outside the resistance stronghold of Homs for a possible ground assault that one activist warned could unleash a new round of fierce and bloody urban combat even as the Red Cross tried to broker a cease-fire to allow emergency aid in.

A flood of military reinforcements has been a prelude to previous offensives by President Bashar Assad's regime, which has tried to use its overwhelming firepower to crush an opposition that has been bolstered by defecting soldiers and hardened by 11 months of street battles.

"The human loss is going to be huge if they retake Baba Amr," said Rami Abdul-Rahman, who heads the Britain-based activist group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said Russia will put forward a proposal at the U.N. Security Council in the coming days regarding humanitarian aid to Syria, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

Churkin was quoted by the agency as telling Vesti 24 television on Monday that the council "could undertake concrete steps aimed at solving humanitarian issues, relying, among other things, on the fact that Damascus allowed the Red Cross to bring humanitarian aid to some regions."

Churkin gave no details about the proposal, his spokesman Anton Uspensky told AP. Russia and China have vetoed two



One of three Syrian injured men who were wounded by shelling at Baba Amr neighborhood in the Syrian province of Homs, lies on his hospital bed as he receives treatment, in the eastern town of Chtoura, in Bekaa valley, Lebanon, on Monday Feb. 20, 2012.

Security Council resolutions backing Arab League plans aimed at ending the conflict and condemning the government crackdown.

The central city of Homs—and in particular the opposition district known as Baba Amr—has become a critical ground for both sides.

The opposition has lionized it as "Syria's Misrata" after the Libyan city where rebels fought off a brutal government siege. Assad's regime wants desperately to erase the embarrassing defiance in Syria's third-largest city after weeks of shelling, in-

cluding a barrage of mortars that killed up to 200 people earlier this month. At least nine people were killed in shelling Monday, activists said.

Another massive death toll would only bring further international isolation on Assad from Western and Arab leaders.

"The massacre in Syria goes on," said U.S. Sen. John McCain during a visit to Cairo, where he urged Washington and its allies to find way to help arm and equip Syrian rebels.

McCain, a senior member of the Senate Armed Service Committee, said he did not support

direct U.S. weapons supplies to Syrian opposition forces, but has suggested the Arab League or others could help bolster the fighting power of the anti-Assad groups. The U.S., he said, could assist with equipment such as medical supplies or global positioning devices.

"It is time we gave them the wherewithal to fight back and stop the slaughter," he said.

Assad's fall also would be a potentially devastating blow for his close ally Iran, which counts on Syria as its most reliable Arab ally and a pathway for aid to Tehran's patron Hezbollah

in Lebanon. But McCain urged for "like-minded" Western and Arab nations also to guard against attempts by al-Qaida or other extremists to exploit a leadership vacuum if the regime crumbles.

"For us to sit back and do nothing while people are being slaughtered ... is an affront to everything America stands for and believes in," said McCain, suggesting that the Republicans could seek to make Syria a central campaign issue in this year's U.S. presidential election.

But U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, on a visit to Mexico on Monday, dodged a question about whether the U.S. could accept Arab countries or others arming the Syrian rebels.

We are all working for the planned friends of Syria meeting at the end of this week, which we think will give us a chance to come together and

chart a way forward," she said.

She said the meeting in Tunisia "will demonstrate the Assad regime is increasingly isolated and that the brave Syrian people need our support and solidarity."

But she said that should be expressed through humanitarian help and encouragement to the Syrian opposition to promise that everyone they will be represented in a new Syria.

In Cairo, Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby suggested at a news conference that Russia and China—two countries that recently supported Damascus by vetoing a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Assad's regime—may be shifting their positions.

"There are some indications, especially from China and to some degree from Russia that there may be a change in their stance," he said, without elaborating.

## Russians revive Ice Age flower from frozen burrow

**MOSCOW (AP)**—It was an Ice Age squirrel's treasure chamber, a burrow containing fruit and seeds that had been stuck in the Siberian permafrost for over 30,000 years. From the fruit tissues, a team of Russian scientists managed to resurrect an entire plant in a pioneering experiment that paves the way for the revival of other species.

The *Silene stenophylla* is the oldest plant ever to be regenerated, the researchers said, and it is fertile, producing white flowers and viable seeds.

The experiment proves that permafrost serves as a natural depository for ancient life forms, said the Russian researchers, who published their findings in Tuesday's issue of "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences" of the United States.

"We consider it essential to continue permafrost studies in search of an ancient genetic pool, that of pre-existing life, which hypothetically has long since vanished from the earth's surface," the scientists said in the article.

Canadian researchers had earlier regenerated some significantly younger plants from



This undated photo provided by the Institute of Cell Biophysics of the Russian Academy of Sciences show a *Silene stenophylla* plant regenerated from tissue of fossil fruit.

seeds found in burrows.

Svetlana Yashina of the Institute of Cell Biophysics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, who led the regeneration effort, said the revived plant looked very similar to its modern version, which still grows in the same area in northeastern Siberia.

"It's a very viable plant, and it adapts really well," she told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from the Russian town of Pushchino where her lab is located.

## Misrata holds first Libyan elections post-Gadhafi

**MISRATA, Libya (AP)**—Four months after the death of Moammar Gadhafi, the people of Misrata were frustrated by stalled reforms. They played a key role in overthrowing the Libyan dictator of 42 years, and were impatient to see the changes they shed blood for.

Revolutionaries accused the self-appointed city council that came to power early in the uprising of deeply rooted corruption, allegations which the council head denied. They staged a sit-in on the council's steps, got the members to resign and call new elections, which were held on Monday.

The vote was the first experiment in real democracy anywhere in Libya, and the fact that it hap-

pened here only demonstrated the newfound clout of Misrata, Libya's third-largest city, on the national political scene.

It was also another example of how Libya is splintering into largely autonomous city-states, with powerful local militias and emerging local governments that at best have loose ties to the Tripoli-based central government known as the National Transitional Council.

"This is a turn in Libya from suppression and dictatorship to democracy," said Abdullah al-Kabir, a political commentator in Misrata. "Libya has never known real elections."

So far, cities like Misrata are pushing ahead even faster with the transition to democracy than

the national government is.

The National Transitional Council says elections for the 200-member national assembly will be held in June but no date has been set. The assembly will name a new government and select a panel to write a constitution.

But many Libyans are frustrated with what they call a slow pace of political transformation. The coastal city of Benghazi, which was the rebel capital during the uprising, has also sacked its council and called for elections next month.

The rebellious coastal city of Misrata, with about 300,000 residents, suffered horribly during last year's revolution. Gadhafi's forces shelled the city for weeks, and fierce street battles

left thousands dead, missing or injured. Mothers sent their sons to the front lines, while selling their gold jewelry to finance arms purchases.

The inexperienced but tenacious Misrata rebels managed to push Gadhafi's forces out of the city in late April, a turning point that left the regime increasingly isolated in the capital and a few other cities in the western half of Libya.

Then the Misratan rebels pushed out of the city. Working with insurgents from the western mountains along the border with Tunisia, they converged from two sides on the regime stronghold of Tripoli and brought the capital down in a few days.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Inmate massacre underlines Mexico prison problems

**MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)**—The revelation that guards likely helped members of the violent Zetas drug cartel slaughter 44 rival inmates and break out of a northern Mexico

jail throws new attention on the enormous corruption inside the country's overcrowded, underfunded prisons. The top officials and as many as 18 guards at the Apodaca prison may have helped 30 Zetas escape during the confusion of a riot early Sunday in which

other Zetas fatally bludgeoned and knifed 44 members of the rival Gulf cartel, Nuevo Leon Gov. Rodrigo Medina said Monday. The massacre in this northern state was one of the worst prison killings in Mexico in at least a quarter-century and exposed another

weak institution that President Felipe Calderon is relying on to fight his drug war.

#### Relatives storm Honduras morgue demanding remains

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)**—Hundreds of relatives

of inmates who burned or suffocated to death when a fire raged through a Honduran prison forced their way into a morgue Monday to demand the remains of loved ones. The group of women and some men pushed into the morgue, broke into a refrigerated container

and opened at least six body bags, prosecutors spokesman Melvin Duarte said. Police used tear gas to chase the people from the morgue, Duarte said. He said no one was injured during the confrontation in Tegucigalpa, although at least one woman fainted.

## Focus

**DETROIT (AP)**—Car shoppers today are less likely to end up with a bad one.

In the past five years, global competition has forced automakers to improve the quality and reliability of their vehicles—everything from inexpensive mini-cars to luxury SUVs.

The newfound emphasis on quality means fewer problems for owners. It also means more options for buyers, who can buy a car from Detroit or South Korea and know it will hold up like a vehicle from Japan.

With few exceptions, cars are so close on reliability that it's getting harder for companies to charge a premium. So automakers are trying to set themselves apart with sleek, cutting-edge exterior designs and more features such as luxurious interiors, multiple air bags, dashboard computers and touch-screen controls.

"It's a great time to be a consumer," says Jesse Toprak, vice president of industry trends for the TrueCar.com auto pricing website. "You can't really screw up too badly in terms of your vehicle choice."

It wasn't always this close.

In the 1990s, Honda and Toyota dominated in quality, especially in the key American market for small and midsize cars. Japan began building high-quality small cars and tapped into America's growing appetite for fuel efficiency in the 1970s. With their sterling reputation, Japanese automakers were able to charge more than Detroit three automakers and cut Detroit's U.S. market share from 78 percent in 1980 to just under 43 percent in 2009, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank.

Cars from Detroit generally weren't as trouble-free in the 1980s and '90s.

However, around 2006, as General Motors, Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Group LLC were heading into financial trouble, they realized that people were shifting away from trucks and sport utility vehicles to smaller cars and car-based crossover SUVs. Gas prices were on the rise again, and the companies, which relied on bigger vehicles for their profits, had few cars to offer.

Fearing the shift, Detroit decided to go after the Japanese and shifted research dollars from trucks to cars after years of neglect. Detroit also realized that Hondas and Toyotas were quieter and more reliable, so they spent more on engineering and parts to close the gap.

Meanwhile, Korean automakers Hyundai Motor Co. and Kia Motors Corp. were busy redesigning their cars, changing to more cutting-edge looks to boost sales. Then, Toyota's reputation was tarnished by a series of safety recalls, and Honda played conservative with new models that looked similar to the old ones.

The newfound emphasis on quality has closed the gap between best and worst in the industry. In 1998, J.D. Power and Associates, which surveys owners about trouble with their cars after three years, found an industry average of 278 problems per 100 vehicles. By this year, the number fell to 132.

In 1998, the most reliable car had 92 problems per 100 vehicles, while the least reliable had 517, a gap of 425. This year the gap closed to 284 problems.

"We don't have total clunkers like we used to," says Dave Sargent, automotive vice president with J.D. Power. Nearly all automakers are improving in quality, but manufacturers that are at the bottom of the rankings are improv-

# For car buyers, it's harder to end up with a loser

By DEE-ANN DURBIN and TOM KRISHER

AP AUTO WRITERS



In this Jan. 9, 2012 file photo, the 2012 Hyundai Elantra is shown at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. AP



In this Feb. 8, 2012 photo, Ford introduces a 2013 Ford Focus ST during the media preview of the Chicago Auto Show at McCormick Place in Chicago. AP

ing more quickly than those at the top, Sargent said.

Detroit's automakers have narrowed the quality gap considerably against brands from other countries. In 1998, J.D. Power found 42 more problems per 100 vehicles with GM, Ford and Chrysler cars and trucks. This year the

gap had narrowed to just 13. While car prices are still rising, the narrow gap keeps Japanese automakers from charging a premium over rivals with similar models.

The competition helps consumers by giving them more choices and more car for their money.

## COMPACTS

It used to be that the Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic were far better than the rest, and they cost more. But the new Chevrolet Cruze and the vastly improved Hyundai Elantra and Ford Focus are giving consumers more options. The Cruze, which went on sale in 2010, is far better

than the car it replaced, the Chevrolet Cobalt. GM sold 231,000 Cruzes last year to pass the Civic for second place and come within 9,000 of the Corolla, the small-car sales leader.

While Corollas and Civics were in short supply following Japan's March earthquake, the Cruze offered a good alternative for people who didn't want to wait. In May, Cruze sales surged 40 percent over the Cobalt's year-earlier sales, besting all rivals to become the top-selling U.S. compact that month. The competition has nearly erased the premium paid for Hondas and Toyotas. But that's largely due to price increases by competitors. Since compacts have more features, people are paying more for the Focus, Elantra and Cruze.

For example, in 2007, Toyota got an average of \$15,820 for every Corolla it sold, a premium of \$1,708 over what GM charged for a Chevy Cobalt. The average Cobalt sold for \$14,112.

But last year the roles reversed. The premium instead went to General Motors, which got an average price of \$19,858 for the Cruze, which replaced the Cobalt in 2010. That's \$2,028 more than the Corolla at \$17,830, according to the TrueCar.com website.

## MIDSIZE CARS

Toyota's Camry and Honda's Accord used to be dominant. But Ford's Fusion, Nissan's Altima and Hyundai's Sonata are cutting into their sales. The Camry kept its long-held title as the nation's top-selling car last year, but the Altima and Fusion passed the Accord, which is typically No. 2. The price premium paid for Hondas and Toyotas has nearly vanished in midsize cars as well. Like with small cars, people are paying more because of more standard equipment and options.

"It's very hard to find products that aren't good anymore," says Jeremy Anwyl, CEO of the Edmunds.com automotive website. "In safety, performance and quality, the differences just don't have material impact."

With quality, fuel economy and price close to equal across the U.S. market, companies also are pushing the edge on exterior design to differentiate their cars. Honda, for instance, unveiled a daring new Accord coupe in Detroit that looks like a far more expensive car, while Ford did the same with its new Fusion.

"It's got to be beautiful," says Mary Barra, GM's product development chief who led work on a new Cadillac small luxury sports sedan.

Another way to stand apart is to lower a car's base price, sacrificing profits to gain market share, at least initially.

That's what Chrysler is hoping for with the new Dodge Dart compact, which starts around \$16,000, about \$700 less than a Cruze and \$500 less than the Ford Focus, the Dart's two main competitors.

CEO Sergio Marchionne says the company won't make much money on a basic Dart. But the lower price will get the car on shopping lists, and Marchionne is hoping people will add features and pay more.

Chrysler in the past spent little on compact-car development and hasn't offered a competitive one for years. But being late has its benefits. Chrysler learned by avoiding mistakes made by other companies, says Ralph Gilles, the company's chief designer.

"Coming last to the party, you can bring a nice bottle of wine," he says.

# Campus Life

## NMC signs accord with Department of Defense

The Northern Marianas College has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Defense to establish a Voluntary Education Partnership to ensure that men and women who have served in the armed forces have access to quality postsecondary education opportunities, such as those offered at NMC.

The college signed the MOU on Feb. 1, 2012, and the DoD approved it shortly thereafter.

The new partnership allows service members

to avail of the DoD Military Tuition Assistance program, which enables them to receive up to full tuition coverage by attending NMC. The program will also pay for other fees authorized by the college, as long as the total cost of attendance does not exceed \$4,500 per year.

Institutions interested in a DoD Voluntary Education Partnership are required to sign an MOU in order to ensure familiarity with DoD policies regarding the enrollment of service members into

an educational program. The MOU, once signed and approved by a DoD representative, is valid for five years.

"We want to ensure that we are doing everything we can to afford military personnel maximum access and convenience to our programs and services," said NMC president Sharon Y. Hart.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary

education, early childhood education, special education, rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas. (NMC)

## For college bound, a look at financial aid changes

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The mad dash to cobble together college funding will soon be under way.

In the weeks ahead, colleges will begin mailing out their much-anticipated acceptance letters and financial aid packages. The notices will alleviate pent up anxiety and finally give high school seniors a clearer idea of what their futures will hold.

But amid all the emotions, students and families will also need to start sorting out how they'll pay for tuition. The average bill now comes in at more than \$17,000 to attend an in-state public college.

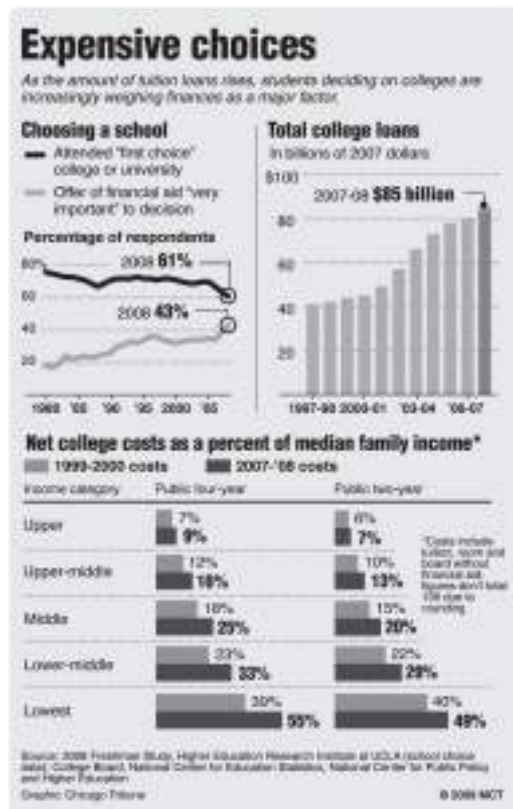
The problem is that navigating the universe of financial aid can be confusing. That's because there's a vast patchwork of grants, scholarships and loans available. But a failure to properly compare the options and explore the alternatives could mean the difference in thousands of dollars in debt upon graduation.

Adding to that confusion is a spate of headlines in recent weeks regarding changes in financial aid. To help navigate this process, here's a look at what's behind the recent changes:

### COMPARING COSTS

As part of his broad plans to make higher education more affordable, President Barack Obama recently said he wants to make it easier for families to size up the cost of college.

As it stands, there isn't a uniform template for financial aid award letters and officials say the forms can be difficult to decipher, even misleading. For example, schools usually provide a total "out of pocket" cost after subtracting aid such as grants and scholarships. But some schools also subtract loans from that figure, even though loans have to be repaid and actually push up costs because of interest charges.



In other cases, interest rates and other loan terms are not spelled out. Officials say this could lead to students taking on more debt than they realize.

To address the issue, the Department of Education and the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau announced in October that they are developing a model financial aid form. There aren't any plans yet to make the form mandatory. But once a template is finalized, Congress could vote to require colleges to use it to maintain access to federal aid. The

adoption of such a form has also been widely supported by student advocates.

Separately, Obama is pushing for a "college scorecard" that would require schools to disclose their graduation rates, rate of employment and debt repayment among graduates.

### INTEREST RATES

Taking out a student loan to attend college has become the norm, with two-thirds of graduates leaving campus in debt. But not all loans are alike. So it might have caught your attention last month when Obama said in his State of the Union address that the fixed interest rates on student loans are set to double in July if Congress fails to act.

Before you panic, keep in mind that there are primarily two types of federal student loans: subsidized and unsubsidized. The difference is that the government doesn't start charging interest on subsidized loans until the student graduates. With unsubsidized loans, interest starts accruing right away.

The loans also come with different interest rates. Unsubsidized loans currently charge a fixed rate of 6.8 percent. The interest rate on subsidized loans was gradually lowered to its current fixed rate of 3.4 percent over the past few years. But the law that temporarily reduced the rate sunsets in July.

So unless Congress extends the reduction, the rate on subsidized loans will snap back to 6.8 percent.

This may affect even families that are relatively well off; not everyone who qualifies for a subsidized loan is from a low-income household. This could be the case for students who are attending expensive schools or have other siblings in college. Eligibility is based on financial need, which

is determined by a formula on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Then there are private student loans, which come with entirely different terms. These are widely considered to be an option of last resort since the interest rates tend to be higher and variable, meaning they rise and fall with a benchmark rate. And since benchmark rates are at record lows, the rates of private lenders are likely to rise in the years ahead.

### HARDSHIP CLAUSES

Another difference to note between private and federal loans is that the latter come with greater safety nets.

The issue came to light last week when Sallie Mae, a private student lender, said it was changing how it handles a fee it charges unemployed borrowers who seek to suspend payments.

Sallie Mae isn't cancelling the \$50 fee, but said it will now apply the money toward the borrower's loan balance if on-time payments are resumed for six months in a row. The change came after an online petition asking the company to drop the fee collected more than 77,000 signatures on Change.org.

By contrast, borrowers who are unemployed or suffering economic hardship aren't charged to defer payments on federal student loans. In addition, they can apply for a program called Income-Based Repayment, which caps monthly payments at 15 percent of annual income above \$16,300. Those who earn less don't have to make any payments; any remaining debt after 25 years is forgiven, or 10 years for those entering public service jobs.

Obama is also pushing to have a change take effect this year that would cap monthly payments to 10 percent of income above \$16,300. Borrowers would also be relieved of payments sooner, with any remaining debt forgiven after 20 years. That change had originally been scheduled to take effect in 2014.

## GMS student qualifies for regional forensic contest

Green Meadow School student Chekaina Viel Coloma won first place in Dramatic Interpretation at the National Junior Forensic League competition held on Feb. 11, 2012, at Chacha Ocean View High School in Kagman.

The win earns Coloma 25 credit points, qualifying her to compete at the regional NJFL. All the other three members of Coloma's team from Green Meadow School's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class also won major honors in the same contest.

The whole GMS family congratulates Coloma, Monica Aira Usi, Ezekiel Kristen Alfred, and Mary Grace Briones for another excellent performance at NJFL.

### DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Chekaina Viel Coloma
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Monica Aira Usi
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Ezekiel Kristen Alfred
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Mary Grace Briones

### DUO B:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Monica Aira Usi, Ezekiel Kristen Alfred
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place: Chekaina Viel Coloma, Mary Grace Briones

### POETRY READING MA

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Chekaina Viel Coloma



Coach Bona Angeles and GMS president Mila Merjilla join Mary Grace Briones, Monica Aira Usi, Chekaina Viel Coloma, and Ezekiel Kristen Alfred in this photo after winning major honors at the Feb. 11, 2012, NJFL competition. Coloma, fourth from left, won first place, qualifying her to vie for even greater honor in future regional NJFL competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Life & Style

## YouTube enlists big-name help to redefine channels

**CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP)**—YouTube is enlisting Hollywood's help to reach a generation of viewers more familiar with smartphones than TV remotes.

The online video giant is aiming to create 25 hours of programming per day with the help of some of the top names in traditional TV. The Google-owned site is spreading its wealth among producers, directors, and other filmmakers, using a \$100 million pot of seed money it committed last fall. The fund represents YouTube's largest spending on original content so far.

YouTube believes it is laying groundwork for the future. While the number of traditional TV watchers has leveled off in recent years, more and more people are watching video on mobile phones, tablets and computers, especially the 18- to 34-year-old age demographic that advertisers covet.

The idea is to create 96 additional YouTube channels, which are essentially artists' home pages, where viewers can see existing video clips and click "subscribe" to be notified when new content goes up.

Well-funded videos by a select roster of stars are likely to be more watchable than the average YouTube fare of cute cats and webcam monologues. YouTube is betting that a solid stream of good content will attract more revenue from advertisers, bring viewers back frequently and bolster its parent company's fledgling Web-connected-TV platform, Google TV.

The cash has enticed some of TV's biggest stars, including "Fast Five" director Justin Lin, who directs episodes of "Community," "CSI" creator Anthony Zuiker and Nancy Tellem, the former president of CBS entertainment.

Zuiker is teaming up on a horror series for YouTube after observing his own family's behavior. His three pre-teen sons spend more time on phones, iPads and computers than watching TV these days.

"We want to jointly take the risk with YouTube and roll the dice on the future," Zuiker says. "The old regime is going to falter because everybody thinks the TV is the only device that really counts, and that's just not the case."

For producers, it's a chance to create shows that are completely free of meddling from major studios. They can also stay relevant with a younger crowd whose viewing is moving increasingly online.

Several new channels such as the extreme sports-focused Network A and Spanish-language Tutele have launched already. YouTube hopes to have them all up and running by this summer.



In this Dec. 16, 2011 photo, crew members work on a costume at the Maker Studios in Culver City, Calif. The \$100 million investment by YouTube in 96 new channels starting in October has sparked a flurry of activity in Hollywood's independent producer community. At companies like Maker Studios, which received money for three new channels, the funds have turbo-charged an already teeming operation.

"This was really about galvanizing the ecosystem at large," says Alex Carlross, global head of original programming for YouTube. "We see the portfolio (of funded channels) really representing the best of TV meeting the best of the Web."

YouTube isn't the only Web video service that has started to pay for original content. Netflix Inc. recently launched the original series "Lilyhammer," while Hulu premiered "Battleground." But YouTube videos tend to be under 10 minutes, instead of fitting into traditional half-hour or hour-long TV slots. And aside from a few guidelines, ultimate control is given over to the artist, including what is uploaded and when new episodes appear.

YouTubers also get away with far edgier stuff than the middle finger that rapper M.I.A. flashed during the Super Bowl

halftime show.

Although YouTube's entire investment is less than half of what some studios spend on one blockbuster movie, about a third of the new channels were awarded to scrappy YouTube veterans who already know how to make it big online while keeping production costs low.

YouTube expects to recoup what it spends on the grants by sharing ad revenue the new videos generate.

At Maker Studios, which received money for three new channels, the funds have turbo-charged an already teeming operation that has about 160 full-time staff spread across several buildings crammed with props and computers in the west Los Angeles suburb of Culver City.

On a recent visit, two scenes were being shot in an alley. One was for a parody of a

Christmas movie trailer. The other was for a new series about a crime-fighting van called "Si, Es I, Pepe."

Maker cranks out about 300 YouTube videos each month at a bare-bones cost of about \$1,000 each.

The studio's videos generate a whopping 500 million views each month, thanks largely to established hits that include Ray William Johnson's round-up of crazy videos and such viral giants as "Epic Rap Battles of History."

Advertisers pay up to \$10 per thousand views for video ads that precede the featured content, according to TubeMogul, a major buyer of YouTube ads for the nation's biggest advertisers including Procter & Gamble Co. and News Corp.'s 20th Century Fox movie studio.

Established YouTube partners

share roughly half of their revenue with the site. So if Maker videos generate \$1 or \$2 in ad revenue per thousand views, it would just be scraping by.

Maker co-founder Danny Zappin, who quit film school to buy a high-end camera to start a career on YouTube, says it's a "tricky balance" to keep the studio's share of ad revenue higher than the cost of video-making. The undisclosed amount it got from YouTube, on top of the \$4 million venture capital it received about a year ago, lets Maker put up more videos without waiting for the views and cash to roll in.

"It gives us resources and runway that we wouldn't otherwise have," Zappin said.

For other less-established players in online video, the money has given them an added reason to get involved.

Former CBS executive Tellem teamed up with TV entrepreneur Brian Bedol to create Bedrocket Media Ventures, an upstart production company behind several new YouTube channels, including Network A. The funding "allowed us, or caused us, to focus on YouTube ahead of other platforms," Bedol says.

Analysts believe YouTube has made a wise investment at a time ad rates for online video are rising.

YouTube can be successful with just a few big hits—think of Rebecca Black's "Friday"—even if thousands of videos fall flat. It's similar to the hit-or-miss approach to traditional TV and movies.

"The investor community does not look at this as money wasted," Macquarie analyst Ben Schachter says.

Since promising to share ad revenue with its most popular uploaders in 2007, YouTube has invested in original content mainly by paying for equipment and training new artists, but it was never as big as this.

Backing up its new strategy, YouTube also revamped its homepage to prioritize channels and recommendations above just the most-viewed videos. The revamp allows advertisers to target popular channels or categories of content more easily.

YouTube's funding plan takes a page from Apple Inc.'s playbook. When the iPhone maker launched its App Store in 2008, a \$100 million seed fund created by Silicon Valley investor John Doerr spawned hundreds of thousands of new apps.

"Our developers are not software engineers," YouTube's vice president of global content partnerships, Robert Kyncl, told a convention in January. "Our developers are Hollywood stars, are online stars, are regular folks like you and I."

If nothing else, the injection of funds will spawn content never before been seen on any screen, large or small.

"Fast Five" director Lin, who is teaming up with YouTube stars Ryan Higa and Kevin "KevJumba" Wu on the "YO-MYOMF" channel, said his focus is not to try to find audiences with stereotypical Asian-American content. Rather, the idea is to give a platform to people who have unique voices but haven't been heard yet.

He says Higa and Wu didn't follow any set rules when they jumped to popularity with a mix of oddball humor, brutal honesty and rap.

"They just did what they loved, and people came," Lin said. "If we're going to fail, I would rather go out with that philosophy."

## Polish folk art society defends its 'Oskar' award

**WARSAW, Poland (AP)**—Few would confuse the glitz of the Academy Awards with a ceremony held by a folk arts society in Poland, but Hollywood doesn't want anyone else handing out Oscars.

So the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is demanding that Poland's Association of Folk Artists stop giving out what it calls the "People's Oskar."

Waldemar Majcher of the Association of Folk Artists said Monday the dispute is the re-

sult a misunderstanding. But he also questioned Hollywood's demand.

Majcher said the "People's Oskar," was named after Oskar Kolberg, a 19th-century Polish ethnographer who wrote some 10,000 Polish folk songs. Still remembered and respected in Poland, Kolberg died in 1890.

In its 10-year history, the "People's Oskar"—a metal plaque with an engraved image of Jesus—has been awarded to individual artists, museums, folk festivals and even a bread fair.

Last week, Majcher said, he received a letter from Polish lawyers representing the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences protesting the use of the name "Oscar" in its Polish spelling "Oskar."

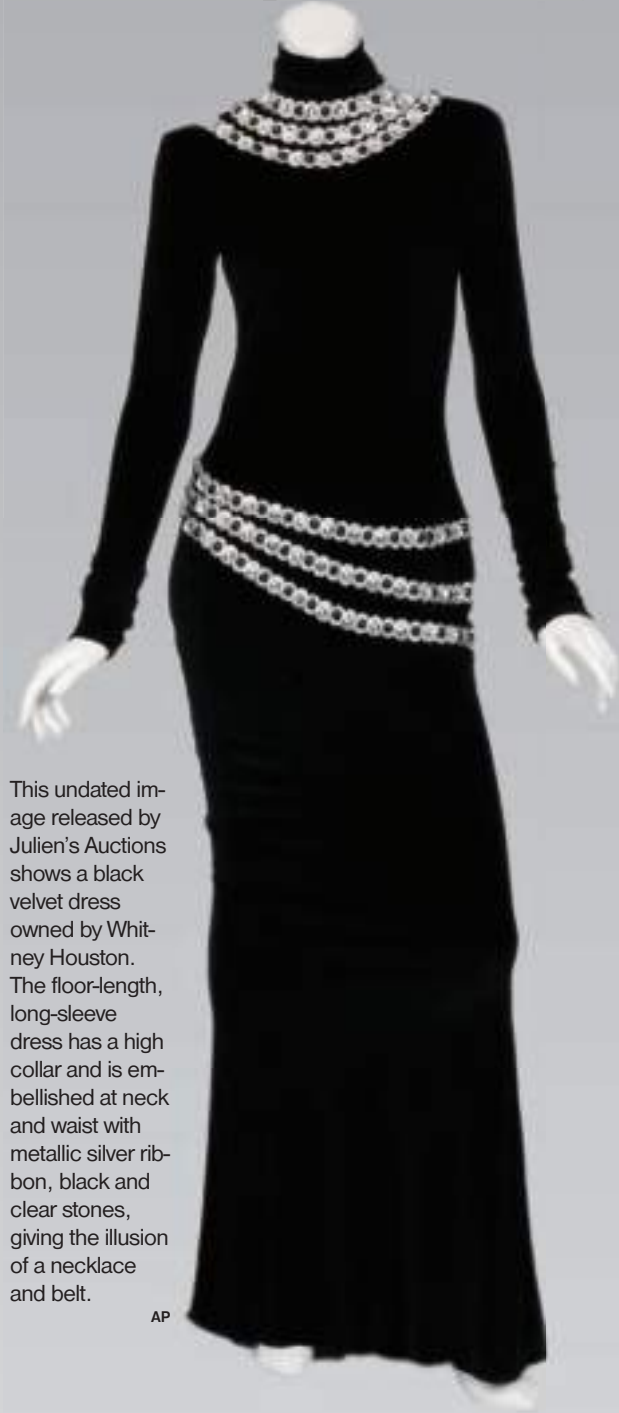
The letter from Wardynski and Partners—which Majcher read to The Associated Press—demands the Association of Folk Artists stop using that name and said the academy had obtained protection of the "Oscar" trademark in Poland in a law adopted in 2000.

The letter said the "verbal trademark Oscar ... is inseparably associated with the Academy Awards."

"The letter gave us a scare, but we are receiving plenty of encouragement from people," Majcher said, adding that in some ways members of his association are impressed that "such a big institution got interested in our modest project."

He said a team of lawyers is preparing a response defending the use of the name People's Oskar.

# Whitney Houston's dress, earrings up for auction



This undated image released by Julien's Auctions shows a black velvet dress owned by Whitney Houston. The floor-length, long-sleeve dress has a high collar and is embellished at neck and waist with metallic silver ribbon, black and clear stones, giving the illusion of a necklace and belt.

AP

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A black velvet dress that belonged to Whitney Houston and a pair of earrings she wore in “The Bodyguard” will be sold to the highest bidder next month.

Celebrity auctioneer Darren Julien said Sunday the pieces and other Houston items became available after the singer's unexpected death on Feb. 11 and will be included among a long-planned sale of Hollywood memorabilia such as Charlie Chaplin's cane, Clark Gable's jacket from “Gone With the Wind” and Charlton Heston's staff from “The Ten Commandments.”

Julien said celebrity collectibles often become available after their namesakes die.

“It proves a point that these items, they're an investment,” Julien said. “You buy items just like a stock. Buy at the right time and sell at the right time, and they just increase in value.”

But could it be too soon to profit from Houston's passing? She was just buried on Saturday.

“It's a celebration of her life,” Julien said. “If you hide these things in fear that you're going to offend someone—her life is to be celebrated. These items are historic now that she passed. They become a part of history. They should be in museums. She's lived a life and had a career that nobody else has ever had.”

Houston is “someone who's going to maintain a collectability,” he said. “For people who are fans of Whitney Houston and never would have had a chance to meet her and never got to talk to her, these are items that literally touched a part of her life. They are a way to relate to her or be a part of her life without having known her.”

The singer's floor-length black dress is valued at \$1,000 but likely to collect much more. Same goes for the vest she wore in “The Bodyguard,” listed at \$400, and the faux-pearl earrings that start at \$600.

Houston fans and other collectors can bid online, by phone or in person during the “Hollywood Legends” auction on March 31 and April 1. Lots will be shown during a free public exhibition beginning March 19 at Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills, California, just blocks from the Beverly Hilton Hotel, where Houston died at age 48.

# Ali smiles as Wonder, others sing Happy Birthday

By OSKAR GARCIA  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—A casino owner paid more than a million dollars for boxing gloves Muhammad Ali used to defend his title. Samuel L. Jackson dedicated a rendition of “Stand By Me” to the boxer. And President Barack Obama told the icon in a birthday tribute that he inspired the world.

By the end of the night, all Ali needed to do to capture the hearts of 2,000 revelers in Las Vegas Saturday was go on-stage and smile.

Ali sat next to Stevie Wonder, who played keyboards and sang his version of “Happy Birthday,” while stars including Sean “Diddy” Combs, Kelly Rowland, LL Cool J, Quincy Jones, Sugar Ray Leonard and boxing promoter Bob Arum followed along.

Combs pinched Ali's cheeks and whispered in his ear, then closed out the nearly 5-hour gala by professing his deep admiration for the fighter.

Ali's eyes widened. He pointed at Combs, then back at his own head, twirling his index finger as if to tell Combs he's crazy.

“The greatest of all time,” Combs said after leading the crowd in shouting “Happy birthday, Ali.”

The moment closed out the celebration of Ali's life and fundraiser to generate millions of dollars for brain research, a mission Ali's family says is important to him in part because of his nearly 30-year battle with Parkinson's disease.

“Happy birthday, champ,” Obama told Ali through a video message, saying he wished he could have attended a swanky dinner gala in Las Vegas featuring some of the biggest names in sports, film, television and music.

“As a fighter, you were something spectacular,” Obama told Ali, who turned 70 last month. “You shocked the world, and you inspired it, too. And even after all the titles and legendary bouts, you're still doing it.”

A set of gloves Ali used to defeat Floyd Patterson in 1965 in Las Vegas—the first heavyweight title fight in Sin City—sold for \$1.1 million. It came with one of the original posters used to promote the fight, which had Muhammad Ali's chosen name as a subscript to Cassius Clay, the name he was born with. When Ali converted to Islam, many people resisted calling him by his new name.

Ali entered the room and sat at a table with his family before bidding began on the gloves.

Lorenzo Fertitta, a casino owner and owner of the Ultimate Fighting Championship, the mixed martial arts league, won the gloves, which organizers had said earlier they hoped would fetch \$500,000.

Football great Jim Brown said Ali represents the greatest of America, because at one time



AP Actor Tony Danza, television personality Larry King and sportscaster Charley Steiner arrive at the Keep Memory Alive 16th Annual “Power of Love Gala” honoring Muhammad Ali with his 70th birthday celebration on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012, in Las Vegas.

people only recognized his athletic ability and didn't like what he had to say. That changed over time, he said.

“America started with slavery and ended up with a black president,” Brown said. “Muhammad Ali was a part of that ... a big part.”

Ali's wife, Lonnie Ali, told the star-studded crowd that her husband's greatest wish has always been to inspire and help others. She said he feels that his life really began when he retired from the ring.

“Muhammad's gift of inspiration is timeless, and now more relevant than ever,” she said after being introduced by music icon Quincy Jones.

Lonnie Ali introduced a video montage of her husband's life, including clips from his work with children.

“People look for miracles, people look for wonders, people expect surprises of all kinds,” Ali said in the video. “Yet the greatest wonder, the greatest miracle, the greatest surprise is to be found in one's heart.”

Guests arriving on the red carpet included football great Franco Harris, supermodel Cindy Crawford, acting star Jackson, Ali's children and grandchildren, and Chuck Wepner, who fought Ali in 1975 for the heavyweight title and lost.

“I would go anywhere in the world for Muhammad Ali's birthday,” Wepner said.

One of Ali's daughters, Rasheda Ali, said the gala was a chance for friends, family and A-listers who look up to her fa-

ther to show their respect for his life and legacy as a humanitarian. In return, she says he'll be honored to see them there.

“He has not left that need to help others,” Rasheda Ali said. “That's one of his core values—his charity and his giving.”

The gala—with tickets starting at \$1,500 per plate—was held at the MGM Grand, the site of most of boxing's major fights the past two decades. Famous faces converged on the 160 tables adjacent to two rings and a stage—Terrence Howard, David Beckham, Anthony Hopkins, Manny Pacquiao, and Lenny Kravitz, among others. They spoke and performed in tribute to a fighter who went 56-5 in the ring with 37 knockouts and became perhaps the most famous athlete ever because of his personality and willingness to stand up publicly for his beliefs.

“He's done it with guts and grace, with his fists, and with his wits,” Jackson said. “He's one of the groundbreaking figures of the generation that helped make the world a more open place when it comes to who we can love, where we can go and what we can do. Thank you, champ.”

Wonder, who performed earlier in the day at Whitney Houston's funeral in Newark, New Jersey, performed “Keep Our Love Alive” and “Superstition.” Rasheda Ali said Wonder was the performer her father was most looking forward to seeing.

Wonder wasn't the only performer.

Snoop Dogg sang a medley of his hits, John Legend, Kravitz, Slash, Kelly Rowland

and Cee Lo Green all performed. LL Cool J rapped “Mama Said Knock You Out” as DJ Z-Trip spun a remixed version of the song that included Ali audio, including his famous “float like a butterfly, sting like a bee” quote.

Tennis great Andre Agassi said Ali has shown the world that each person has a duty—regardless of their occupation—to live for more than him or herself and help others.

“What he did with his platform was unparalleled and the impact he's had as a result, we still feel to this day, which is why we're all out here tonight,” Agassi said. “We're grateful to what he's done. He's been a leader—we're also challenged and charged with a duty of figuring out a way to do more.”

Ali has lived with Parkinson's disease for nearly 30 years, a degenerative brain condition that some doctors say can be brought on by punches to the head.

The gala raised funds for the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for

Brain Health and the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky, a cultural attraction that celebrates Ali's life and pushes educational goals on a wide range of topics for adults and children.

Larry Ruvo, chairman of the clinic's fundraising arm, Keep Memory Alive, said he's not sure whether the fundraiser will exceed its record of \$27 million, but he hopes so.

The gala's auction includes some items that only an A-listers or others with incredibly deep pockets could possibly afford. The top item was Ali's gloves that he used to fight Floyd Patterson in 1965, a bout he won by knockout in the 12th round.

“If it's \$100, great, \$100,000 would be better,” Larry King said in trying to drum up bids.

Magician David Copperfield auctioned off a four-night trip to his set of 11 private islands in the Bahamas for \$300,000.

A fundraising concert featuring Kravitz, Green, guitarist Slash and others for the general public was planned in the same room Sunday night.

Boxing promoter Bob Arum said during a pre-gala reception Friday night attended by celebrities including Hopkins and Larry King that Ali will go down as one of the most important Americans in history.

“Without Muhammad Ali, there wouldn't have been an Obama,” he said. “There wouldn't have been a mixed-race president.”

ABC and ESPN plan to air the gala on Feb. 25.

## Ex-girlfriend wants to remain friends, but without benefits

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I dated a guy named “Jake” for two years. He was my first love and he meant everything to me. Well, things happened and he broke my heart.

After a year of not really talking, Jake is now texting and calling to convince me to be his “friend with benefits.” He tries to sweet-talk me by calling me pet names. Of course, I say no over and over each time he asks on the phone. But the minute we come face-to-face or hang out, I just give in.

There will always be a soft spot for Jake in my heart, and I don’t know what to do. I want to stay friends because he’s important to me, but I don’t want to be his FWB. It brings back painful memories.

How do I say no? Am I overreacting? Should I go with the flow because it’s not a big deal? I feel like I’m in a script for a bad movie.



*Dear Abby*

WANTS TO MOVE ON IN HOUSTON

**DEAR WANTS TO MOVE ON:** Your ex-boyfriend appears to be a super salesman. The best way not to buy what he’s selling is not to listen to his pitch. The sooner you accept you can’t be “friends” because you lose control whenever you see him, the sooner you’ll be able to write a happy ending to this drama. As long as you sleep with Jake you will not be able to replace him with someone who can give you what you want and deserve, which is a real relationship.

**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend of three years, “Patrick,” is smart, successful and wonderful in every way. He dresses extremely well with attention to detail. Many of his friends call him a “metrosexual.”

Patrick never had braces as a child. Now, as an adult, his teeth have caved in and are very unattractive. It surprises me that he would let his teeth go or hasn’t noticed how crooked and deformed they are. I’m afraid to mention it in case it would hurt his feelings. As we are thinking about marriage, the prospect of having to look at Patrick’s bad teeth, that will likely worsen with age, is a deterrent.

Am I being petty and superficial or should I suggest adult braces? Patrick can more than afford them and isn’t afraid of pain or going to the doctor. My own lower teeth could use some work, so maybe I could suggest we both get braces. I’m not sure what to do.

BRACING FOR AN ANSWER IN BOULDER

**DEAR BRACING:** By all means talk to your boyfriend about the condition of his mouth as well as good dental health. If his teeth are as crooked as you have described, his bite is probably also off—which can cause jaw problems when he’s older. Your idea of getting braces with him is a good one, and I agree it’s worth pursuing because you won’t appear to be criticizing him. I hope he heeds your suggestion.

**DEAR ABBY:** My landlord likes to wander around the yard and driveway wearing only a towel around his waist. Sometimes he goes out of his way to talk with me while “dressed” that way. Should I be concerned?

CALIFORNIA RENTER

**DEAR RENTER:** Probably not, unless his towel “slips,” or California experiences more gale-force winds such as the ones that occurred last December.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

## Chris Brown, Rihanna collaborate on 2 song remixes

NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Brown and Rihanna are back together, musically speaking.

Two songs featuring the singers hit the Internet on Monday. Brown sings on the remix of Rihanna’s sexually charged song “Birthday Cake,” and she’s on the remix of his upbeat tune “Turn Up the Music.”

Brown tweeted a link to the new version of “Turn Up the Music” on Monday, and Rihanna later retweeted it. She also tweeted about the remix for “Birthday Cake.”

Brown attacked his then-girlfriend Rihanna at a pre-Grammy Awards party in 2009. He pleaded guilty to a felony charge and is serving five years of probation.

Last year, a judge eased a restraining order after an attorney for Rihanna said she didn’t object to removing the stay-away



In this Aug. 21, 2011 file photo, singer Rihanna performs on stage at the V Music Festival in Hylands Park, Chelmsford, England. <sup>AP</sup>

provisions. The order had required Brown to stay 50 yards away from Rihanna, but the

restriction was reduced to 10 yards if they were at a music industry event.



### ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

#### Olympia theft worse than originally reported

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Police in Greece say 77 artifacts were stolen by armed robbers last week at a small museum in Ancient Olympia—the birthplace of the ancient games—revealing that the extent of the theft was worse than originally reported. Police and the Culture Ministry had initially estimated that some 65 objects up to 3,200 years old were taken in Friday’s raid, when two masked gunmen tied up a museum guard and used a sledgehammer to smash display cabinets at the southern Greek museum. Most of the items on the list released Monday were bronze and pottery figurines, vases and lamps. The robbery was the second major art heist in two months after works by 20th-century masters Pablo Picasso and Piet Mondrian were snatched from Athens’ National Gallery.

#### Maya Angelou cancels appearance, cites illness

DENTON, Texas (AP)—Officials at a North Texas university have canceled a Wednesday appearance by poet Maya Angelou, citing illness. A spokeswoman for Texas Woman’s University says it has no details on Angelou’s illness. A statement on the university’s website says it hopes to reschedule the appearance for this semester. The 83-year-old poet is hosting a radio special on the civil rights era airing on public radio stations across the U.S. Last year, President Barack Obama presented Angelou with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She also has received the Presidential Medal of Arts and the Lincoln Medal.

#### Monaco prince bloodied after brawl in NYC bar

NEW YORK (AP)—A grandson of the late Princess Grace of Monaco has been briefly hospitalized after a brawl in a New York City nightclub. Prince Pierre Casiraghi suffered cuts to his face during the brawl. For-

mer nightclub owner Adam Hock was arraigned Sunday on charges of assaulting the prince and three friends at the Double Seven nightclub in Manhattan’s Meatpacking District. An attorney who represents the 24-year-old prince tells The Associated Press that Casiraghi was treated at a hospital and released after Saturday’s brawl. Attorney Richard Golub says Casiraghi’s group did not “instigate anything” or provoke the attack. But Hock tells the *New York Post* the prince and his entou-

rage “were being completely obnoxious,” verbally abusing women with him. Also punched in the melee was shipping heir Stavros Niarchos III.

#### In return to air, Colbert honors ailing mother

NEW YORK (AP)—With a nod of tribute to his ailing mother, Stephen Colbert returned to the air Monday. Colbert was back hosting “The Colbert Report,” which last week mysteriously canceled the tapings of two episodes.

After a three-year absence from the Grammys, Brown made his return this year, performing twice at the show and winning best R&B album. Rihanna also performed and picked up a trophy.

Rihanna, whose full name is Robyn Rihanna Fenty, told *Esquire* magazine in its October 2010 issue that she no longer resented Brown and that she enjoys his music.

The two singers first collaborated musically in 2007 on the remix to her monster hit “Umbrella.”

Brown also tweeted “HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROBYN” to Rihanna, who turned 24 on Monday.

A representative for Rihanna said she had no comment. An email seeking comment from Brown’s representatives went unreturned Monday.

Colbert’s 91-year-old mother, Lorna Colbert, is ill. And while the comedian didn’t address her by name, he offered a “confidential” message to “a lovely lady.” Said Colbert: “Evidently, having 11 children makes you tough as nails.” Colbert is the youngest of 11 children. His father, James Colbert, and two of his brothers were killed in an airplane crash in 1974. He also comically addressed the rumors stoked by the brief absence of what he called “the hub around which the republic turns.”

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

*We, the family  
of the late*

## REMBERT VINCENT MANGLONA HOFSCHNEIDER

*would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the many individuals who offered words of encouragement and prayers, during the daily masses and nightly rosaries, since the unexpected and sudden passing of our beloved †Rembert who was called to eternal rest on February 5th, 2012.*

*Our sincere thanks, to Reverend Father Sid Ogumoro and Reverend Father Jess Reyes, who celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial. Thank you to the San Jose Church Tinian Choir who provided beautiful music for our beloved †Rembert.*

*We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Honorable Ramon M. Dela Cruz, Mayor of Tinian, his family and staff, Tinian Joint Legislative Delegation, Tinian Municipal Council, Tinian Liaison Office staff and patients, family and friends on Saipan, Frank Cabrera of Cabrera Funeral Services and staff, Uncle Joe P. San Nicolas of SN-Five Enterprises, Wayne L. Villagomez and assistants, Bernadita H. Borja, Priscilia O. Kiyoshi, our rosary prayer leaders on Saipan, Auntie Upe Hofschneider and Stacy C. Camacho, our prayer leader on Tinian, Tan Rosa Aquininoc, and to the many others, who provided assistance to us in one way or another; your generosity and selfless support is truly appreciated by Vicenta, Chailing and our families.*

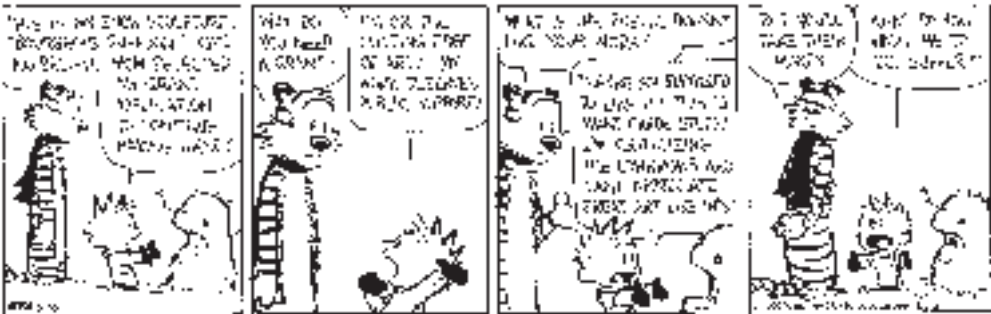
*Un Sen Dangkulo Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase and God Bless You.*

**Magdalena M. Hofschneider and Children  
Vicenta P. San Nicolas and Chailing SN. Hofschneider**

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



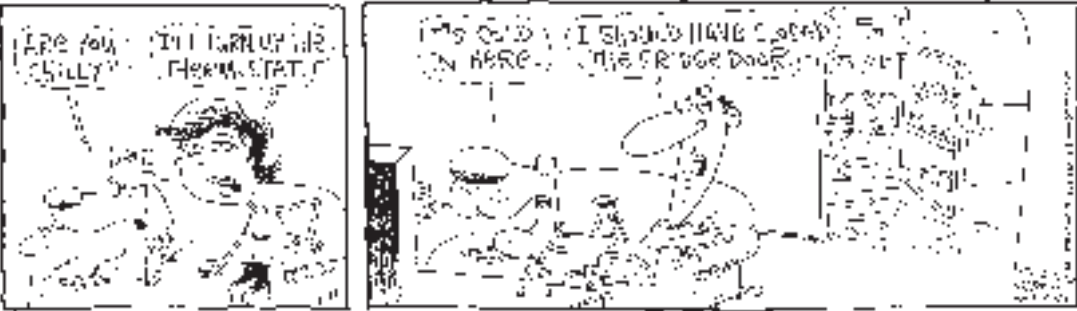
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Includes a 'STUMPED?' section at the bottom.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Barrymore, 37; Thomas Jane, 43; Jeri Ryan, 44; Kyle MacLachlan, 53. Happy Birthday: Tie up loose ends quickly and prepare to defend your position until the appropriate changes are initiated. Expect to face opposition. Deal with whatever comes your way swiftly and without getting caught up in the melodrama going on around you. Stability will be required if you plan to excel. Your numbers are 2, 8, 15, 21, 26, 32, 47.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take on what you know you are capable of doing. Making unrealistic promises will lead to stress and a poor reputation. Time spent with someone you love will make your relationship better and lead to an interesting personal proposition.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Socialize with colleagues or people who share your interests and you will discover a new way to promote what you have to offer. Updating your approach or your presentation to fit the economic climate will lead to a prosperous venture.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Watch what others are doing and you will come up with a better way to achieve the same results. Your insight and competence will lead to positive changes professionally. Invest more time in developing your skills. Love is in the stars.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You've got the right moves to captivate an audience. Don't hold back. Discuss your plans passionately and you will get interesting feedback. A proposal or partnership is worth considering. A change to your personal life will motivate you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Avoid dangerous situations or people looking for an argument. Stick close to home and make whatever changes are necessary to protect your assets and your family. A problem with a child, relative or neighbor is likely to develop.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You don't have to be a superstar. Ask for help, if that's what you need. A creative suggestion should be considered, even if it is unorthodox. A peer, colleague or boss will be impressed with your astute and competent actions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll come up against some stiff competition or opposition. Don't wait for someone to beat you at your own game. Jump in and do everything in your power to excel. Love is on the rise. Participation will help you attract attention.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Apply your knowledge and experience to a service you can offer to subsidize your income. There is money to be made if you can find a way to fill a demand that is typical of the average person's situation.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku puzzle grid by Dave Green. Includes a difficulty level of 3 stars and a copyright notice for 2010 Conceptis Puzzles.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	0	9	7	2	4	5	1
2	7	4	1	6	5	8	3	9
5	1	8	4	3	6	2	7	9
4	8	1	3	2	0	2	7	5
5	5	2	7	1	4	9	8	3
3	9	7	5	2	8	1	4	0
1	4	0	6	5	7	3	9	2
9	2	5	8	3	1	7	0	4
7	6	3	2	4	0	5	1	8

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY. Includes a photo of Eugenia Last and a list of zodiac signs with their birth dates and descriptions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Problems while traveling or dealing with someone who is unpredictable must be avoided. You can make positive changes to your home that will accommodate your changing family or situation. Recycle old ideas and items to save money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stick to your budget. Moderation will help you control a potentially troublesome scenario. A romantic situation with someone from your past will tempt you to make an abrupt change in your lifestyle or your geographical location.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You hold the key to your future. You can choose to fight and vie for attention, or you can choose to be a team player, sharing your knowledge and being open to suggestions. Much can be accomplished if you compromise, forgive and forget.

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, industrious and interesting. You take control and lead the way. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

WONDERWORD puzzle by David Quillet. Includes a list of words and a crossword puzzle grid.

WONDERWORD

DOWN: 1. PLATE, 2. THE, 3. THE, 4. THE, 5. THE, 6. THE, 7. THE, 8. THE, 9. THE, 10. THE, 11. THE, 12. THE, 13. THE, 14. THE, 15. THE, 16. THE, 17. THE, 18. THE, 19. THE, 20. THE, 21. THE, 22. THE, 23. THE, 24. THE, 25. THE, 26. THE, 27. THE, 28. THE, 29. THE, 30. THE, 31. THE, 32. THE, 33. THE, 34. THE, 35. THE, 36. THE, 37. THE, 38. THE, 39. THE, 40. THE, 41. THE, 42. THE, 43. THE, 44. THE, 45. THE, 46. THE, 47. THE, 48. THE, 49. THE, 50. THE, 51. THE, 52. THE, 53. THE, 54. THE, 55. THE, 56. THE, 57. THE, 58. THE, 59. THE, 60. THE, 61. THE, 62. THE, 63. THE, 64. THE, 65. THE, 66. THE, 67. THE, 68. THE, 69. THE, 70. THE, 71. THE, 72. THE, 73. THE, 74. THE, 75. THE, 76. THE, 77. THE, 78. THE, 79. THE, 80. THE, 81. THE, 82. THE, 83. THE, 84. THE, 85. THE, 86. THE, 87. THE, 88. THE, 89. THE, 90. THE, 91. THE, 92. THE, 93. THE, 94. THE, 95. THE, 96. THE, 97. THE, 98. THE, 99. THE, 100. THE.



# Williams has 38, Nets handle Linsanity this time



NEW YORK (AP)—Linsanity started against the New Jersey Nets, and this time All-Star guard Deron Williams was determined not to be embarrassed by the Harvard guy again.

Williams scored a season-high 38 points, outplaying Jeremy Lin and leading the Nets to a 100-92 victory over the New York Knicks on Monday night.

Lin began his remarkable run against the Nets about two weeks ago, but Williams and the Nets were ready for him this time.

Lin finished with 21 points, nine assists and seven rebounds, but Williams outscored him 36-11 through three quarters, when the Nets led by 18. Lin shot only 7 of 18 and the Knicks lost for the second time in 10 games since his emergence against the Nets on Feb. 4.

"I think me in particular didn't come with the defensive energy we needed. Obviously, Deron Williams going for 30-whatever he had is not going to get it done," Lin said. "So I needed to come out with more energy, the team needed to come out with more energy and I think at the end of the day, I think that's why the team lost."

Carmelo Anthony, clearly rusty in his return from a seven-game absence with a strained right groin, shot 4 of 11 and scored 11 points.

Williams scored 18 in the third quarter, including 12 straight Nets points during one surge. Clearly amped up for the rematch—maybe too much so, because he fouled out with 3:07 left—he skipped across the court with three fingers in the air after burying a second straight 3-pointer during his blistering stretch.

MarShon Brooks had 18 points for the Nets in their third game in three nights.

They shut down a Knicks offense that rang up 104 points against the defending champion Dallas Mavericks on Sunday, when Lin had 28 points and a career-best 14 assists.

But Williams was locked in this time, and the U.S. Olympian could've gone for plenty more if not for spending most of the fourth quarter on the bench in foul trouble. But by then he had the Nets too far ahead for the Knicks to catch.

Williams, who shot 7 of 19 in the first meeting, made eight 3-pointers and was 10 of 22 overall on Monday.

"I don't think Deron Williams needs much of a prod," Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said. "That's one of the best guards in the league. Jeremy still got 21 and nine. He had a great game, good game. Deron had a great game and that'll be that way sometimes. Again, I'm not big on the matchups just because it's a team thing and as a team we just didn't perform very well."

The Knicks had their five-game winning streak against the Nets snapped and failed again to move back over .500.

Baron Davis had three points in 9 minutes in his Knicks debut after overcoming a herniated disk in his back. Expected to be the starter whenever he became available, he'll be Backup Baron as long as Lin keeps it up.

The Knicks were 8-15, coming off losses on consecutive nights, and had already fallen into a double-digit hole against the Nets on Feb. 4 when Lin got his chance, coming off the bench for 25 points in a 99-92 victory.

So uncertain of his NBA future at the time that he refused to get his own place to live, Lin slept on teammate Landry Fields' couch the night before that game.

The days of sleeping on couches and



New Jersey Nets' Deron Williams, right, drives to the basket as New York Knicks' Jeremy Lin defends during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 20, 2012, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

riding the benches are long gone.

Lin had since averaged 25 points and 9.2 assists, the most remarkable story in the NBA this season. And even the Nets have been impressed. Coach Avery Johnson praised Lin and downplayed the notion that his stats were a product of D'Antoni's system, though Johnson also wasn't buying a certain comparison that has been popping up more regularly.

"I've heard a lot of different stories and even I got a question from even my daughter whether Lin was in (Steve) Nash's category. So we don't want to go there, OK?" he said. "It's only been nine games. Give the kid a chance."

"It's a great story and he's inspiring a lot of kids, but let's give the kid a chance to play a whole season, maybe even play a playoff series, before you know, we start putting him in Nash's category."

Nor is he in Williams' category. The All-Star point guard was in constant motion with or without the ball, powering his way to the basket on drives or hitting from well beyond the 3-point arc—once while being fouled by Lin for a four-point play.

It was a learning experience for Lin, anonymous last month but a marked man in the league now.

Knicks ratings have surged—Sunday's victory earned ABC's third-highest overnight rating ever for a non-Christmas broadcast—and celebrities are packing Madison Square Garden again. New parents Jay-Z, a part-owner of the Nets, and Beyonce were in the crowd for this one.

Lin graced the cover of *Sports Illustrated* and was the subject of a sketch on "Saturday Night Live" and there's no telling how far his celebrity will rise. The online sports book bovada.lv even is giving 5 to 1 odds he'll go on a date before the NBA finals are over with Kim Kardashian, split from Nets forward Kris Humphries.

Humphries, booed as usual since their brief marriage, had 14 points and 14 rebounds, and drew technicals on the

Knicks when Anthony tried to trip him and when Tyson Chandler followed him to the bench jawing during a timeout.

The only question left for Lin was what he would do with Anthony, who was hurt 6 minutes into Lin's starting debut two nights after that Nets game. Both players scoffed at the idea that Anthony would mess it up, and Anthony has even said he went to D'Antoni and told him to give Lin more minutes—though the coach had no recollection of it.

Anthony's first basket came off a connection with Lin, setting a pick and popping out for a jumper. But the Knicks' offense went stagnant in the second quarter, and Williams took over the game in the third.

## Bulls 90, Hawks 79

In Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 23 points in his return from a five-game absence because of back pain to lead Chicago over struggling Atlanta.

Rose also had six assists and five rebounds. Carlos Boozer added 16 points, Ronnie Brewer had 13, and Deng and John Lucas 10 apiece. Joakim Noah chipped in with 16 rebounds.

Pargo had 19 points, and Josh Smith added 17 points and 12 rebounds for Atlanta.

## Thunder 101, Hornets 93

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook scored 31 points each to lead Oklahoma City over New Orleans for its 10th straight home win.

One night after a historic performance featuring big scoring nights from All-Stars Durant and Westbrook and a triple-double from Serge Ibaka, the Thunder built a 26-point lead and then had to scrap it out at the end.

Jarrett Jack scored 18 points to lead New Orleans, which had a surprising three-game winning streak after losing 23 of 25.

## Mavericks 89, Celtics 73

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki had 26 points

and moved into the top 20 on the NBA career scoring list as Dallas beat short-handed Boston.

Nowitzki, who also had a season-high 16 rebounds, scored all of Dallas' points in a 10-2 run midway through the second quarter that pushed the Mavericks ahead by 14. They led by double digits the rest of the way.

The Celtics were without suspended Rajon Rondo, Kevin Garnett and injured Brandon Bass. They also lost starters Jermaine O'Neal and Chris Wilcox to injuries in the third quarter.

Paul Pierce led the Celtics with 20 points. Ray Allen added 15 and Avery Bradley 12.

## Warriors 104, Clippers 97

In Oakland, California, Monta Ellis scored 32 points and Ekpe Udoh had a season-high 19 points and eight rebounds in place of ill center Andris Biedrins to lead Golden State past Los Angeles.

Chris Paul had 25 points, six assists and five rebounds, and Mo Williams made his first six 3-pointers and finished with 22 points in Los Angeles' second straight loss. The Clippers had 18 turnovers and shot just 42 percent.

## Magic 93, Bucks 90

In Milwaukee, Dwight Howard had 28 points and 16 rebounds, and Jameer Nelson added 15 points to lead Orlando to its third win over Milwaukee in 10 days.

Brandon Jennings had 22 points and Mike Dunleavy added 18 for the Bucks. Ersan Ilyasova, coming off 29 points and 25 rebounds Sunday against New Jersey, had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

It was the Bucks' sixth straight loss at home, the first time Milwaukee has lost six straight at the Bradley Center since a seven-game slide from Feb. 5-25, 2000.

## Rockets 97, Grizzlies 93

In Houston, Kyle Lowry scored 24 points, Kevin Martin added 22 and Courtney Lee hit four key free throws down the stretch to lead Houston over Memphis.

Houston led by seven before Memphis went on a 5-0 run to pull to 91-89 with 27.4 seconds left. O.J. Mayo got a rebound, took it down the court and finished with a layup to cap the run.

Gay led the Grizzlies with 23 points and Mike Conley had 16.

## Nuggets 103, Timberwolves 101, OT

In Denver, Arron Affalo hit a tiebreaking floater in the lane with 33.7 seconds remaining in overtime and reserve Al Harrington scored a season-high 31 points as Denver beat Minnesota.

Affalo spun past defender Luke Ridnour and swished his shot to put Denver ahead. From there, the Nuggets closed the game out at the foul line and snapped a three-game skid.

Affalo finished with 20 points and rookie Kenneth Faried added 14 rebounds as the Nuggets beat the Timberwolves for the 17th time in 18 games.

Kevin Love had 22 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota, which had its three-game winning streak snapped.

## Suns 104, Wizards 88

In Phoenix, Marcin Gortat scored 20 points, and Steve Nash had 12 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds in three quarters as Phoenix beat Washington for its 10th straight win over the Wizards.

Channing Frye added 19 points and 11 rebounds and Michael Redd scored 14 for the Suns, who topped 100 points against Washington for the 18th time in a row, the longest active streak of its kind in the NBA.

Jordan Crawford scored 20 points for the Wizards, who finished a five-game trip with three losses after winning the first two. The Suns outscored Washington 31-6 after the Wizards took their only lead of the game early in the third quarter.

## Spurs 106, Jazz 102

In Salt Lake City, Tony Parker scored 23 points and Matt Bonner hit five 3-pointers as San Antonio defeated Utah for its 11th consecutive victory.

Richard Jefferson's 3-pointer with 6.5 seconds left sealed the victory for the Spurs, who have not lost on the road since Jan. 29 in Dallas. Tim Duncan had 20 points for San Antonio.

Al Jefferson led the Jazz with 20 points and Paul Millsap added 16.

The Spurs kept the NBA's longest win streak alive despite injuries to Manu Ginobili and Tiago Splitter, both expected to miss two weeks. San Antonio trailed by 10 in the third quarter before rallying.

## Lakers 103, Trail Blazers 92

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 28 points, Andrew Bynum had 14 points and 19 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers roared to a 30-point lead early in the second quarter before holding on against the Portland Trail Blazers.

Pau Gasol had 16 points and 12 rebounds in his first game since Bryant criticized the Lakers' front office for allowing Gasol to dangle amid trade rumors.

Neither star appeared distracted by the Lakers' latest off-court saga as Los Angeles reeled off a 37-4 run after Raymond Felton's game-opening 3-pointer for Portland.

LaMarcus Aldridge and Nicolas Batum scored 18 points apiece but the Blazers couldn't quite recover from the lowest-scoring first quarter in club history, getting no closer than 10 points late in their fourth loss in six games.

# Albert Pujols starts anew with Angels



**TEMPE, Ariz.**  
(AP)—Decked out

in Angels' gear from head to toe, Albert Pujols looked like the same slugger whose swing in St. Louis became as symbolic as the Gateway Arch.

With a halo-topped "A" logo on his cap, Pujols, his massive chest and arms filling out every corner of his red shirt, sat behind a microphone and excitedly announced the start of a new stage of his career.

"Here I am," he said.

And here he goes.

Arriving just as the morning sun crept above the horizon, and more than a week earlier than required, Pujols reported to training camp Monday with the Los Angeles Angels, who will pay the three-time NL MVP \$240 million over the next 10 years to be the face of their franchise—and to hopefully bring them several World Series titles.

"I'm just really excited to be here, it feels good to be outside," Pujols said during a news conference held at a nearby luxury hotel. "I've been training for three months, hitting in a cage in St. Louis, and it feels good to be here for some spring baseball."

Although only the Angels' pitchers and catchers had to be at camp this early, Pujols wanted to be there from Day One as well. That's how the 32-year-old has done it since breaking into the big leagues in 2001 and he wasn't about to change his routine.

He also felt it was important to begin bonding with his new teammates, some of whom were caught staring at him from across the clubhouse.

Driving a black Mercedes still tagged with Missouri license plates, Pujols pulled into the players' parking lot at 7:15 a.m. There were only a handful of fans waiting to catch a glimpse of the nine-time All-Star, who helped lead the Cardinals to a championship last season before leaving the only baseball home he had known.

Pujols stopped in the equipment room and shook a few hands before heading to the clubhouse, where his locker is flanked by veterans Bobby Abreu and Torii Hunter.

"The guys are awesome," Pujols said. "They well-received me as soon as I walked in there."

Shortly after dressing, Pujols made an early request to one of the team's media relations members.

"Let me take a peak of the ballpark," he said before walking out a side door for his first look at Tempe Diablo Stadium, the Angels' spring home, which is sure to be packed with fans throughout March.

It didn't take long for Pujols to feel like he was part of the club.

During manager Mike Scioscia's first team meeting, Pujols' cellphone rang, earning the superstar his first petty fine, which according to a team official, will require him to buy his skipper lunch.

No major league manager had a more productive offseason than Scioscia. Angels owner Arte Moreno spent \$320 million in signing Pujols, left-hander C.J. Wilson (5 years, \$77.5 million) and reliever LaTroy Hawkins (1 year, \$3 million).

Scioscia, entering his 13th season with the Angels, will have the luxury



Los Angeles Angels' Albert Pujols smiles during a news conference after a spring training baseball workout, Monday, Feb. 20, 2012, in Tempe, Ariz.

every game of penciling Pujols' name onto his lineup card in the No. 3 spot and at first base.

"His whole game, not only being a presence hitting in the middle of the lineup, running the bases. He's an offensive machine," Scioscia said. "He's a special player and special players are usually multidimensional, and Albert is."

Scioscia said unless there's a need because of injury he has no plans to use Pujols at third, where the Cardinals had him for seven games last season.

After taking some swings in an indoor cage, Pujols was driven in a golf cart to one of the back fields on the team's minor league complex. With over 100 fans doing everything possible to get a close look from behind the right-field fence, Pujols fielded some grounders before taking his first outdoor batting-practice cuts of the spring.

With Moreno, trainers, coaches and instructors watching, Pujols ripped a few fastballs from hitting coach Mickey Hatcher for line drives and then launched a deep shot over the fence in left, the ball slicing between two giant palm trees and disappearing into the brush.

"It's too early for that," a smiling Hatcher yelled as Pujols switched spots with Kendrys Morales, who will likely bat in the cleanup spot behind him.

Jumping to a new league and facing unfamiliar pitchers might unnerve some players. Not Pujols. He intends to dig into the batter's box the same as always, square up a fastball the way he has for years and pad statistics that are likely to grace his plaque in Cooperstown.

"The game doesn't change," he said. "When I got into the big leagues in 2001, I didn't know anybody, so that's how I'm going to take it. It's a differ-

ent league, but in 2001 I didn't know any pitchers around the league. It's going to be a little different, but when it comes to playing the game, nothing

## Valentine looking for Bosox to bus it this spring

**FORT MYERS, Fla.** (AP)—Bobby Valentine always expects his players to bust it. The new manager of the Boston Red Sox also wants his team to bus it this spring.

When the Red Sox play exhibitions on the road, Valentine says the players will take the team bus. It's common around the majors for stars to drive themselves to spring training road games, mostly to get a fast start home after they're pulled early.

"I think guys drove to the ballpark when we played away (in previous springs)," Valentine said Monday. "We're not going to do that anymore."

"Buses. Yeah, buses. Unless there's an exception, someone has to pick their wife up at the airport along the way. There's always exceptions to rules," he said. "The manager and coaches will drive and at times there might be a player there because at times there might be a 'B' game that I'm going to watch and the bus leaves early."

The Red Sox are coming off a season in which a late collapse cost them a playoff spot. Valentine has been trying to add games and innings to get enough time to evaluate everyone.

Left fielder Carl Crawford was an early arrival among the pitchers and catchers. Despite having surgery on his left wrist in January, Crawford looked fine to Valentine.

"I didn't know he was there," Valentine said. "I just walked around the

corner, there he was, throwing the ball. It was great to see him. His health looks much better than I expected. I'm pleasantly surprised."

Crawford had a disappointing first season with the Red Sox last year and was a target of some of Valentine's pointed criticism as an analyst for ESPN. The manager, though, is not concerned about any lingering discomfort.

"I think it's cleared up," Valentine said. "And if it's not, I don't think it's a big deal anyway. I think he's ready to play baseball. He had the great look in his eye. He's a great athlete. Looks like he's going to have good health."

That's not the case, though, for all his players.

Right-handed reliever Bobby Jenks is entering the second season of a two-year, \$12 million contract. He appeared in just 19 games, spanning 15 2-3 innings, last season while limited by injuries, including a pulmonary embolism. Jenks had two procedures on his back in the offseason.

"Bobby said he'd like to take it one week at a time and I'd say that that means he's a long ways away from thinking about baseball activities," Valentine said. "He's really had a terrible offseason, health-wise, and so he's a real back-burner guy. I don't expect to see him in many baseball activities for a while, if at all this spring."

"I would think that he would be that in-season trade that everyone would

has changed except that we have a DH in the American League."

Pujols has joined a new team, new league and new city, but he will always have fond memories of his years with the Cardinals.

"You know what, I had a great time in St. Louis," he said. "Obviously, 11 years, you don't just flip the page and move on. There were some great moments. I was able to accomplish two World Series and that experience is something I want to bring to this city, to Anaheim, to this ballclub and have hopefully better seasons than I had in St. Louis and hopefully more championships."

Pujols said he's fine physically and dismissed the idea that a wrist injury that nagged him early last season lingers.

"Just look at my numbers after the wrist injury," he said. "It doesn't bother me at all."

And neither does his decision to leave St. Louis, right after the Cardinals won the championship.

There was a point where it looked as if Pujols might stay with the Cardinals, and be that rare player in the era of free agency to spend his entire career with one team. However, the second-largest contract in baseball history along with the chance to prolong his career as a DH and an additional 10-year personal services contract with the Angels was too much to resist.

It was time for him to go.

Pujols is pushing on.

"I can't go back and feel sorry," he said. "It's time to move forward. It's like another chapter in my life and it's time to open a new one. I don't want to go look over my shoulder and regret the decisions I made. It was the best for me and my family."

be looking for and we'd have him right here already. That's what I'm hoping for. I would think some time into the season. Things happen differently and that's my opinion," he said.

Righty Aaron Cook, a non-roster invitee, will be on a slower pace than most of the other pitchers.

Righty Daisuke Matsuzaka and lefty Rich Hill are both making their way back after each underwent Tommy John surgery in June. Valentine said they are on similar recovery paths.

"I think Rich is throwing a little better," Valentine said. "I think recovery and healing process is very similar and I think it could be a similar pace."

Valentine does not expect either to pitch in spring training games.

After the Red Sox went 7-20 in September, there were reports that pitchers were drinking beer in the clubhouse during games.

Valentine said he had made a decision on whether or not to ban alcohol in the clubhouse, but wasn't going to publicly announce it yet.

"I think the players should know first," he said.

Valentine will talk to the club after the full squad reports on Saturday.

"I've thought about addressing the team," he said. "I don't know that I'm going to address any things concerning the regular season next week. But I've thought about it."

# Youth clinic with pros tips off today

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands

Volleyball Association is putting on a beach volleyball youth clinic with some visiting professional players from the U.S., Japan, and

New Zealand today on Fiesta Resort & Spa's sand courts from 4pm to 6pm.

Some of this year's guests of

honor include Japan's Hiroyo Kenada and Mengumi Murakami with their coach Tsuyoshi "Go" Mochizuki, Ty Loomis

Last year, over 500 joined the early morning walk, including members of the sports community, namely the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, Tan Holdings Football Club, Shirley's Football Club, United Knights Badminton Club, and the Northern Mariana Islands Badminton Association. Also present in the event were Pangelinan's siblings Herman Pangelinan, Sophia Tenorio, and Martina Ada, daughter Christina Sablan, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and his wife Chilang.

Over \$2,000 was raised in last year's JP Walk. **(PR)**

## 4th Annual JP Walk this Saturday

Walk for a cause this Saturday when you join the 4th Annual JP Walk.

The three-mile walk from the pavilion in front of the JP Center in Beach Road, Garapan to the Susupe Beach Park will be held in honor of John "JP" Pangelinan and will have its proceeds going to the fight against cancer.

Pangelinan, the former publisher of the *Saipan Tribune*, passed away on Feb. 5, 2008, after a long, brave battle with cancer. The following year, Tan Holdings launched the JP Walk in recognition of Pangelinan's contributions

to the company, the community, his friends and family.

"The company and myself personally have missed JP for the past four years. Each year I look forward to seeing his family, friends, and the rest of the community come out and remember him by walking in his memory and supporting the fight against cancer. The proceeds we raise this year will once again go toward the Marianas March Against Cancer so that their efforts can have a farther reach in our community," said Jerry Tan, the Tan Holdings president and long

time friend of Pangelinan.

Registration for the weekend event starts at 5am and walkers can start heading to Susupe after signing up. Registration fee is only \$5. Refreshments and entertainment will be available at the Susupe Beach Park.

Registration forms are available via email from becky\_tenorio@tanholdings.com or may be picked up at the *Saipan Tribune* office or at the registration venue on the day of the event. Payment can be made at the *Saipan Tribune* or the TSL Foundation.

## DOCOMO

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mostly of U12 contenders.

Docomo 2 battled back and downed third placer MBI Rollers, 51-32, again in the lower bracket finals for another crack at its young rivals.

In the finals, Docomo 2's shooters caught fire late in the opening period and scooted ahead, 38-22, at the half.

Docomo 4's C.J. Morales carried the torch for his team, scoring his team's first 14 points. Morales connected with a couple of 3-pointers and dashed inside for some nifty strikes through the lane.

Docomo 4, however, erased this damage with five long-range bombs, three of which came from J.P. Iglesias who led the champs in the first half with 11 points on the other end.

Morales was held to just one basket in the second frame and although his teammate Quin Amoa managed seven points in the late minutes, the Cinderella finish was not to be as Docomo 2 coasted to

the anticlimactic victory.

Iglesias and Renen Lansang combined for 21 points in the win.

Docomo 4 advanced to the main stage undefeated by going through Docomo 3 Hoops, 37-26, and then Docomo 5 Youth Rollers, 46-16, in preliminary play.

Looking back on their big upset in the semifinal, Docomo 4 buried a trio of 3-pointers in the first half; two came from Morales who led the field at midpoint with eight markers.

Docomo 2's Toshi Pangelinan managed six points in the first canto, but the rest of the squad was pretty well held in check by a scrappy Docomo 4 unit, 15-11, at halftime.

Docomo 2 keyed on Morales in the second half and contained him to just one bucket, but the young gun still managed to work the offense through teammates Mike Espinosa and Kyle Rios, who combined for nine points in the clutch.

Docomo 2's Irvyn Malonzo scrambled for six checks in a late rally cry, but Docomo 4

held strong and closed the deal.

Morales and Rios teamed up for 18 points in the match, while no one from Docomo 2 exceeded six.

They may have ran out of steam in the main event, but kudos to the duo and the whole Docomo 4 gang for finally savoring a win over their older counterparts. The group has come close on a number of occasions and finally chalked at least one win up in their favor.

Both the champion and runner-up squads will receive team trophies after conclusion of the UBA's U25 division scheduled for early March. Six teams make up the U15 field.

The action continues this Friday with the U17 division tourney on Saturday and Sunday starting at 4:30pm; weather permitting.

Slots are still available for both the U17 and U25 divisions. Entrance forms can be obtained at the Safety 1st System office located along Middle Road, in Gualo Rai or at the Garapan Community and Development Center.

Docomo Pacific and the

## SCS

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risers (2-0). Smart Cagers fell to a 1-2 card.

Both squads had the chance to win the game in regulation, but missed crucial free throws, forcing SCS and Smart Cagers to play for five extra minutes.

Smart Cagers' Edwin Santos had the opportunity to break the deadlock when he drove to the right baseline, made the basket, and drew a foul from Bon Tamayo, 77-77, with 10.3 seconds left in the fourth. Santos muffed the bonus shot and later committed his fifth foul against Jun Pantaleon on a loose ball play. Pantaleon trooped to the stripe for a pair of charities and missed both. Smart Cagers collared the rebound in the last 4.2 seconds and Rommel Usi threw a desperation shot from the backcourt and badly missed,

sending the game in OT.

In the extra five minutes, foul troubles continued to hurt Smart Cagers, as they lost two more players and brought SCS to the 15-foot line several times. SCS drilled seven free throws in overtime with the last three sealing the deal for the team. Smart Cagers converted only two charities and faltered on a couple of second and even third attempts at the basket.

Smart Cagers lost despite leading at the end of the first three quarters. They were on top by three at the start of the fourth, 62-59, when Lizama and company slowly ate up the lead after getting several trips to the foul line. SCS went 9-for-12 from the stripe in the fourth, while Smart Cagers were 6-for-13.

Lizama paced SCS with his 23 points, while Rocyl Ritual and Glenn Aquino chipped in 18 and 15, respectively. Leo Galarse added 12 and Bon Tamayo contributed 11 to com-

plete SCS' balance scoring.

Pete Iguel led Smart Cagers with his 24 markers, but had limited touches and was scoreless in overtime.

### QQ Rent A Car 80, Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe 64

In the second game, QQ Rent A Car finally broke into the win column after a 0-2 start, following a 16-point victory over Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe.

QQ Rent A Car pulled away midway in the second period, using its speed and outside shooting to beat Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe. QQ Rent A Car also out-hustled Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe on loose ball and offensive rebound plays en route to the easy win.

Scoring machines Lerio Pagarao and Wowie Abuel teamed up in the victory with the former logging 22 points and the latter firing 18. Eugene Mangali also

tallied double figures with 15, while QQ Rent A Car's bench contributed in the win, combining for 21 points against Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe's 10.

### First Game

SCS 88 – Lizama 23, Ritual 18, Aquino 15, Galarse 12, Tamayo 11, Manalo 2, Pantaleon 1.

Smart Cagers 84 – Iguel 24, Peredo 12, Santos 12, De Dios 11, Inos 9, Usi 9, Dayrit 5.

Scoring by quarters: 15-18, 36-42, 59-62, 77-77, 88-84.

### Second Game

QQ Rent A Car 80 – Pagarao 22, Abuel 18, Mangali 15, Paraiso 7, Mateo 6, Camacho 4, Cruz 2, Montes 2.

Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe 64 – Bernardo 23, Mendoza 20, Miranda 10, Yabut 5, Cruz 2, Johnson 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-15, 46-32, 65-47, 80-64.

and John Carlucci of the U.S., and New Zealand's Kurt Peters.

The seasoned pros will be featured in the upcoming Marianas Cup Pro-Am Tournament this weekend.

Notably, Mengumi won the women's division last year with teammate Remi Sudo, while Kenada bagged a second place showing in 2010 with her partner Mitsumi Ozaki.

The free clinic is open to all players of ages 10 to 21; NMI-VA membership is not required to participate.

By tradition, aside from Carlucci, the other four players will be featured in a professional exhibition match, for national bragging rights, scheduled for 5:30pm this Friday at Fiesta.

After conclusion of the expo,

the foursome will find out who their respective amateur partners will be in the weekend main event via a raffle drawing at 7:30pm.

All three events, in addition to last weekend's Inaugural Junior Marianas Cup tournament held in Guam, are part of the NMIVA's 20th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival. The festival

concludes with the 5th Annual Marianas Kids Cup on March 4, held also at Fiesta Resort.

Details of last week's Junior Marianas Cup event will be released later this week.

Email nmivolleyball@gmail.com or visit www.nmivolleyball.org for more information about any of the events listed above.



## RACE

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he and teammate Rafael Jones bowed to eventual champions Peter Loyola and Tammy Ackerman, while Emily Jones joined forces with Peter Loken and lost to Loyola and Ackerman in the finals.

Race had enough energy left when he played in the afternoon finals with Ren to wrap up the title game early. Race had earlier battled and lost to Bobby Cruz in the men's open singles finals and after about an hour dueled Dela Cruz and Emily Jones in the doubles game. Dela Cruz also played back-to-back matches last Sunday, as he also advanced to the boys U15 singles finals and won over Seiya Eda.

Dela Cruz and Emily Jones barged into the finals after notching four wins. They drew a bye in the lower half of the bracket and then topped George Poquiz and Tony Atalig in the second round in Week 1 of the

two-weekend event, 6-1, 6-2. Next up for the seeded pair were Merle Hudkins and Grace Choi and Dela Cruz and Emily Jones prevailed in straight set anew, 6-2, 6-1. In the quarterfinals, Dela Cruz and Emily Jones beat Alex Park and Steve Nutting, 6-1, 6-2, to arrange a semis duel against Ken Imaya and Julia Ishikawa. The semis pairing in the lower half of the bracket was played in extended minutes with Dela Cruz and Jones winning, 4-6, 6-3, 10-6.

In the upper half of the bracket, Race and Ren's victories were all via sweeps. They started the event with a 6-0, 6-1 win over Mark Blackburn and Daniel Lim in the second round and then beat Rafael Jones and Catherine Atalig in the third round, 6-2, 6-1. In the quarterfinal, Race and Ren swept Jake Lee and Cole Chambers, 6-0, 6-0. Ren and Race posted their fourth victory via sweep when they eliminated Daniel Park and Steven Goodwin in the semis, 6-1, 6-1.

## ZAPANTA

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in last Monday's tournament and his four-game total of 758 pinfalls was enough to dislodge Sunday leader Percy Omechelang (720) from the No. 1 spot at the end of the two-day event. Omechelang dropped to third, as Jae Yong Kim also joined the second day of the monthly contest and placed second with his 726 pinfalls.

Zapanta got off to a strong start in the final day of the competition, knocking down 223 pins in Game 1. He then slowed down in Game 2 with 151 pinfalls before closing out with 199 and 185 in the last two games for an average of 189.50 pinfalls.

Kim posted 170-plus pinfalls in the first two games (178 and 172) before improving his performance in the last two games (189 and 186), but still fell 33 pinfalls short of surpassing Zapanta's score. Omechelang tied Zapanta for the highest score in a single game when the former logged 223 in Game 1 in Day 1. Omechelang's three other scores were 168, 155, and 174

for an average of 180 pinfalls, around 13 pinfalls better than his Day 2 average of 167.75.

Bowlers are allowed to compete in both days of the event, but only the higher score is counted.

In the Queen of the Lanes, Diane Camacho only bowled in the final day and her four-game total of 701 pinfalls eclipsed the 633 Yho Villavicencio recorded in Day 1. Villavicencio came back in Day 2, but her 672 pinfalls was only good enough for third place. Gloria Omechelang completed the Top 3 with the field's second-best 678 pinfalls.

Camacho's win in the February roll-off was highlighted by a 203-pinfal performance in Game 2. She had 168 in Game 1 and 177 and 153 in Games 3 and 4 for an average of 175.25. The newly crowned February Queen of the Lanes was the only female kegger to post 200-plus pinfalls in the two-day event.

In the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes, Marion McKenzie made it two in a row. He tallied 709 pinfalls in four games to beat M.J. Aldan (669), Ryan Batac (552), Angel Iglecias (516), and Toby Verdager (436).

# 2012 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Joe Saures shows off the trophy for his brother Vicente Saures, who was inducted to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame last Thursday during the 2012 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet at the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel.



Members of the CNMI Baseball Team pose with NMASA officials during the awards presentation for Team of the Year.



From left, TSL Foundation/NMASA female student athletes of the month winners Negahr Rastguiy, Angel Marie Tan, Mikayla Lopez, and Rachel Abrams.



Coach of the Year Tony Rogolifo and Administrator of the Year Rose Igitol join their son Ian Rogolifo, a member of the CNMI Baseball Team, for a family photo after the awards ceremony.



Ambrose and Lilian Bennett receive the 2011 NMASA Female Athlete of the Year award on behalf of their daughter, Yvonne.



CNMI tennis coach Jeff Race, right, poses for a photo with 2011 TSL Foundation/NMASA Male Student Athlete of the Year Rafael Jones.



2011 NMASA Male Athlete of the Year Joshua Jones poses with his life-sized cutout photo.



CNMI athletics coach Elias Rangamar, left, poses with 2011 TSL Foundation/NMASA Female Student Athlete of the Year Rachel Abrams.



2011 TSL Foundation/NMASA Male Student Athlete of the Year Rafael Jones, center, poses with nominees, from left, Beo Ngirchongor, Marion McKenzie, Jehn Joyner, and Christian Miller.

**Activity Schedule for February 22, 2012**

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
(Morning practices)

6:30 PM to 9:30 PM  
(Evening practices)

There are no  
scheduled events.

**2012 Men's B Futsal League**

There are no  
scheduled events.

**Williams has 38, Nets handle Linsanity this time**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



**Albert Pujols starts anew with Angels**

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28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Race, Ren rule mixed-up doubles



Race



Ren

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**C**NMI coach Jeff Race and junior player Michael Ren won the battle of the top seeds in the mixed-up doubles event in the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic.



Race and Ren, who were seeded first in the 64-player draw and led the top half of the field, were pitted against the second-ranked pair of Carl Dela Cruz and Emily Jones and nailed a straight set win in the finals, 6-0, 6-1, last Sunday afternoon at the

American Memorial Park tennis courts.

It was Race and Ren's first win as teammates, while Dela Cruz and Jones faltered anew in their bid to reign supreme in the unique event in the annual competition. Dela Cruz made it to the semis last year before

**See RACE on Page 26**

### SCS grabs solo lead in DLX/Miller Lite caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity/Miller Lite Basketball Invitational Friendship League had its fourth overtime game early

in the season with SCS Heavy Equipment Rental outlasting Smart Cagers, 88-84, last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The victory was third in as many games for SCS, giving the team the solo No. 1 spot and one win lead over the Sun-

**See SCS on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SCS' Jack Lizama goes for a layup against Smart Cagers' Errol Peredo during their game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

## Docomo 2 wins U15 tourney



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Docomo 2 Rollers pose for a team photo after winning UBA's U15 Islander Youth Basketball Tournament Sunday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



Docomo 2 Rollers defeated Docomo 4 Rollers, 56-38, on Sunday night to win the Unified Basketball Association's U15 Islander Youth Basketball Tournament held over the weekend at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Docomo 2 recovered from a 29-26 shocker sniffed out by the pesky Docomo 4 band earlier in the semifinals.

Docomo 2 went through the Micronesian Brokers, Inc. Rollers, 52-39, and advanced past the Docomo Lady Gaga, 40-25, before being shocked by a vivacious Docomo 4 band.

Docomo 2 came out much more aggressive in the finals and saved face with a high-octane performance that put to bed an up-and-coming group made

**See DOCOMO on Page 26**

### Zapanta sizzles in February roll-offs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



After losing the title in last month's roll-offs, Raphael Zapanta this time finished on top of the field,

winning the SBA/Budweiser King of the Lanes February tournament played at the Capital Bowling Center.

Zapanta, who was the Day 1 leader in the January competition before Robert Talavera overtook him in Day 2, bowled

**See ZAPANTA on Page 26**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

King of the Lanes February winner Raphael Zapanta is flanked by runners-up Jae Yong Kim, right, and Percy Omechelang, left during the awards ceremony at the Capitol Bowling Center last Monday.